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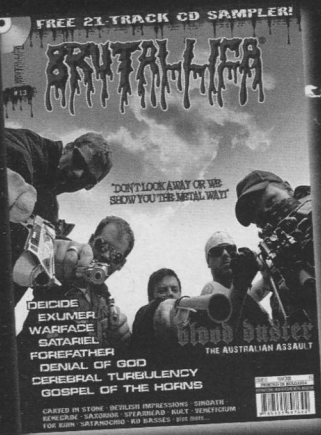
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editorial

So, 13th issue of Brutallica is in your hands, finally. It wasn't easy to make it because only two people were left here at the end, me and Ivailo Tonchev (aka Boni). We did about 90% of the issue with the help of Tsvetan and Stefan. All others left the "ship" but what can you expect from these "Mickey Mouses"? Anyway, all the best and thanks for their past work and

support. Here is the place to mention that we need new people if we want to make the next issue. If you are a die hard Underground fan and you have good knowledge of English, feel free to get in touch with us. Writing for Brutallica isn't a day job, we do not search for some stuck-up journalists, we want some ordinary fans with great passion for music. We make only one issue per year so it shall not burden you that much. If you are interested get in touch with me.

About issue 13, I'm very satisfied with the final result. Finally we did an interview with one of my fave bands - BLOOD DUSTER, this Australian grind machine is a special band, this is why we put them on the front cover. Some distributors asked me "why don't you put MORBID ANGEL or CRADLE OF FILITH on the cover page? This way you can sell more copies". The sells figures are the last thing that motivates us as long as there are people who support us with advertisements. The interest of advertisers was a great surprise for me. We have never had so many advertisements. Thanks to all these advertisers we keep the magazine alive and we'll continue to make it until there are still interested labels/bands to support Brutallica.

For this issue we have received about 600 promotional records. It is obvious that we cannot review so much stuff, we do not have the possibility to hear and review so many records and also to put 600 reviews this means at least 35-40 pages full with reviews only. If there is a next issue the rule will be as following: the priority will have unsigned bands and labels that support the magazine in some way (distribution, advertising, etc). There is no other way; we are not able to review everything that we receive. We mostly prefer Underground releases, for the mainstream ones there are so many major magazines. We prefer to stay Underground!!!

I would like to say a big THANK YOU for choosing Brutallica and we all hope this issue will please you.

Chavdar Tzachkov

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According to your opinion, which are the most influential Canadian bands at the moment? Also which are the most influential bands for VENEFICIUM?

The Black Metal scene is still quite young here, so I don't know who will remain as a reference, but there are some older bands that deserve to be acclaim: FROZEN SHADOWS, GODSPEED YOU! BLACK EMPEROR, VISION, VOIVOD, NADJA. For VENEFICIUM: OBTAINED ENSLAVEMENT, old EMPEROR, DAWN, ABIGOR, ELEND, DODHEIMSGARD, ZYKLON B... Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Chopin, Bach, Debussy... **I'm surprised by the production of "De Occulta Philosophia..." Where did you record the album and who was helped you to get this fantastic sound?**

Most of the credits for the sound quality of the album go to FF, which also work as a professional and fully skilled soundman. We made this record by ourselves and we are pretty proud of it.

Can you describe with some words each of the 9 compositions included in the album?

This album is outside of us now. It's to you to deal with it. See what you'd like to see.

I guess VENEFICIUM has had some hard times. How did you manage to survive so many years even without an album released?

VENEFICIUM is not just a part time studio project; it's for us a devoir. "De Occulta Philosophia" took existence this winter because we were satisfied, even so, it wouldn't be release. Time is not a deadline.

What can you tell us about Sepulchral Productions and how did you get an offer from them for the releasing of your debut album?

We know Myrkhaal (owner of Sepulchral Productions) since 10 years now. It's great to work together because Sepulchral Productions is, for me, one of the best and most respectable emergent labels in the whole Black Metal scene. Credibility is something important, and there's no doubt about the impact of his implication in the genre.

Looking at the title of the CD it seems you guys have deep interest in the occult?

Occultism is for us the true meaning of Black Metal. It's a way to found self-awareness in a meaningless universe. It's more about

how to become conscious of your own deity than a stupid strict obedience to a (anyway non-existent) pseudo black god. This acceptance leads my research in the study of mythology and his representation, in the purpose to compose what I'd like to hear at my own funeral.

How is the live activity of VENEFICIUM? The great atmosphere of your music makes me to imagine a very sublime picture of your concerts.

VENEFICIUM is not a live band anymore. Sometimes, great visual projections are better in your own imagination than in real life. I like music who's inspire images. In another hand, the full line up of VENEFICIUM is working since two years in the atmospheric Doom Metal band LONGING FOR DAWN. So, in a way, VENEFICIUM still alive, in a funeral form.

How do you plan to promote the album? Its success is in the hands of you and your label.

Promotion has always been a contradiction with "true" Black Metal. But as every others Undergrounds bands, putting down a record is something terribly hard to accomplish. I just hope that our art is our main argument.

Lat words/wishes

Thank you for the interest. We have put so much energy in that project...

VENEFICIUM is probably the oldest Black Metal band coming from Canada. Unfortunately they aren't very productive; the proof for this is the fact that they've released their debut album...in 2008. Not a good achievement for 18 years of existence thought. Actually this is not so important; better one significant album that 10 insignificant ones. Believe me, "De Occulta Philosophia..." deserves your attention with its captivating orchestral Black Metal and crisp sounding. I really hope this interview with VENEFICIUM to attract your attention, especially for those who prefer quality than quantity.

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

Canadian Black Metal isn't very popular here but I think your band is good enough to attract many fans. So, let's present the band, the music and its ideology?

VENEFICIUM is three persons since 1991: FF (drums and vocals), Lord Efferus (guitar) and myself S. Carignan (keys, guitar and lead vocal). Our music is, in his aspiration, in between Black Metal and a classical funeral mass. I've always been inspired by melancholy and despair, these feelings are the essence of what we want to express, in a dark and sublime musical shape. **I'm shocked to see that VENEFICIUM was created in 1994 but you have released your debut "De Occulta Philosophia - A Missae Tenebrae" in 2008. Where the hell have you been for the last 14 years?**

Well, as you said in the first question, the Québec province wasn't recognized for his Black Metal scene in the mid 90s, which was really small although. So it was really difficult to get attention. We tried a lot at the time, but nothing encouraging occurred, so we broke-up after 7 years of existence. Several months have passed, and after some discussions, we decide to create "De Occulta Philosophia" because it was really meaningful for us three.

What is the origin of the name veneficium? I mixed it up with the name of another Black Metal band VENEFICIUM. Excuse me for my ignorance

We choose that name in 1994. I don't know if they took that name before us or not, anyway, we don't care about. That name was the most suitable for our band at the time and it still.

You play Symphonic Black Metal with some great atmosphere created by the keyboards. I notice good musical knowledge, it seems that some of you have some musical education or at least he has taken some lesions. Am I right?

We do have of course some musical education,

but not so much. Music is a language, and for some reasons, I do have my own melodic words. For the keys part, I try to recreate a real orchestra by composing different partition for each instrument. This gave to the ensemble a complexity and a classic feeling impossible to obtain with a unique synth big string sound, couple with choirs. I did know from the very beginning of the recording session that I wish a multi layer and natural sounding orchestration for the whole album.

I guess the nature of the northern part of Canada is a great source for influence for a band like VENEFICIUM. Can you describe the place where you live in? I guess it is very beautiful? When do you like it most? During the winter or during the summer?

It's understood that I don't like summer and sun. We're not living in the same city anymore. Lord Efferus and I are living in Montréal; FF is still living in Québec city, where the band was alive at the time. Of course we do all love Québec landscape, especially in the north, where we rehearse with our Doom Metal band, LONGING FOR DAWN. But nature is not, as itself, a VENEFICIUM topic.

I guess you have released some demos before "De Occulta Philosophia..." Can you tell us something about them and what is the level of the quality both of the music and the sound?

We did only one demo between all these years. VENEFICIUM is not a productive band. This demo is not available anymore, even for us. The sound quality and atmosphere is in accordance of what you shall expect from a young and true Underground Black Metal band in 97-98. And considering that we took just two days to record and mix four songs, it's raw, atmospheric, compact and breathless.

"I've always been inspired by melancholy and despair, these feelings are the essence of what we want to express, in a dark and sublime musical shape"

you say some words about each member of the band?!

Currently we are two members only in band, me on drums and Dovorcon on bass/vocals, a friend who has played in other bands such as GHAZMAIL, TOMETH, etc. For the rest we have invited in the studio some session musicians, very good guys, but now we're trying to recruit a stable line up to being able to make some live gigs.

Your new album is already on the market. What could you say about it; where did you record it? Could you describe in a few words each of the 9 compositions?

Our new album is a concentration of macabre Metal, I can say that today nobody play this kind of music, I hope a lot of people listen to it because it is something new and really cool and although the sound is traditional all the songs go from atmospheric cold Doom to mid-tempo Death Metal; the lyrics are mostly pagan, we do not use satanic thematic, we acknowledged the paganism and we do not want to make it a movement, like that Satanist movement.

You have worked with two labels in the past: Nosferatu Records and Polyphemus. What do you remember about them and do you know if they are still working?

They have been two good labels after all, but they haven't made a lot in order to promote the band, today they are R.I.P.

The new album of SINOATH is released by Elegy Music, right? Could you say something more about this label? What other bands are signed to them and what contract do you have with Elegy?

Elegy Music is my personal label, specialized mostly in distribution and mailorder, as you see we didn't find a deal with a big label so, we have preferred to make it with my label, so all was under control. Elegy Music (do not mix it up with the USA label) has produced various bands such as SOULGRIND (Ita), ARS MACABRA, NAZGUL (Ita), RISING MOON, etc. We always have tried to make the best but our possibilities are limited unfortunately.

How can you describe the musical and the ideological direction of SINOATH in the beginning of the 90s and now in 2008? Have you

changed a lot over the years?

During the 90s we were young kids and we were attracted by Satanism, Esoterism and from the macabre atmosphere, musically we were inspired from CELTIC FROST, OBITUARY, old MORBID ANGEL, MERCYFUL FATE and so on. Today after nearly twenty years, the Satanism does not interest us anymore. We think it's a movement that is not true! Like the Catholicism! We have comprised that the same symbols were manipulated symbols of our pagan tradition, and therefore we have begun to interest in our origins and the paganism. Musically we haven't changed the curse, above all it refers to us to forge in blood.

What was the reason to split up the band in 1996?

The insufficient promotion from the labels we worked with discouraged the band and with the line-up problems, I presume the band has been forced to split-up.

How do you see the Underground scene in Italy now?

"We were one of the first bands to mix dark Death Metal and to use the keyboards in this kind of music"

Today the Underground scene in Italy is improved, but unfortunately it's hard to get a good deal, therefore there are many bands interesting but will be much difficult to carry a plan ahead, moreover there aren't labels that are interested to search for new talents, they are only interested to make money, so they don't have a talent scout department...it's very difficult.

The 4th track reminds of old BATHORY while most of the other tracks have much more atmospheres driven by the keyboards. You have made a good mixture between old school Black Metal and the modern sound of the 21st century. How do you see the influences in the music of SINOATH?

We wanted to make an album that is a concentration of the bands that we have adored in the past and moreover that was much with our personality, even if estimate the lots of German and Scandinavian movements, we did not want to copy nobody. SINOATH is between the bands that have created the scene; we don't follow anybody, our sound is a mixture of macabre atmospheres that we love and our personality. Also with the insertion of Dovorcon in the line up as bass player and vocal our sound is also more modern, and once again we have made a varied album from all that comes in the scene. Our sound is macabre, cold, powerful, dramatic, a mixture between new and old style.

Have you already played the new songs live?

What was the live activity of the band so far? Your music is very mystic and dramatic and this could be recreated on stage in a very interesting theatrical way.

Unfortunately as I said you, we are trying to complete the line-up and therefore we have not played live, but be sure as soon as we are ready we will organize some live and we hope to make a small show, simple but with some cool effects.

What is your life outside of the band? I guess it is pretty normal: a day-job, drinking, listening to different music, parties, football...making fun. Could you reveal your other interests and hobbies?

Yes we have a normal life: we make sex parties, pagan rituals, some time one ridden, and we live in a castle ah ha ha... obviously I am joking. We all have normal jobs, for being able to continue to play, of course we make a lot of parties, some drink sessions, we travel a lot...and I live in a shitty apartment

What is your opinion on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the growing religious conflicts? Even in the 21st century people cannot live without wars and destruction.

The wars are all about of conquest, every age have a nation that tries to create an empire, the fact that is made with the excuse to carry the democracy is a fact without a honour. I love the people in North America, but I cannot say the same for their government. In order to not be misinterpreted I am not a pacifist, or a communist but I'm trying to think with my head and these wars seems very dirty however the wars are part of the history of the humanity, about the religious monotheists, they are an instrument of control.

According to you, which are the best 5 albums of 2007 and which are the biggest disappointments?

Honestly I do not know which are the best releases of 2007, but I can say you that currently the scene does not have a great ferment according to my point of view. One great release it's SINOATH "Under the Ashes" CD ☺.

Your final words to the fans?!

My personal regards to all ours fans, and those will read this interview, thanks also to you for the space that you have granted to us. Check out our new album, is a truly great product!

Contact us if you need more info:

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elegy_hawk@hotmail.com

www.myspace.com/elegymusicmailorder

The story of the Italian band SINOATH can be separated of two periods, the first one in the beginning of the 90s when the band was formed. At this time they released some very well received releases which gave them a very good Underground status. Unfortunately after some line up problems and bad luck the band split up until 2003 when Salvatore Fichera decided to resurrect it. After several years of hard fight it is a time for a new release – the jewel "Under The Ashes" which was released in the spring of 2008. It wasn't hard to find Salvatore, so let's see what's going on with his band.

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

When did you decide to reincarnate SINOATH and what was the main reason for this – the passion to create music or the feeling of something you haven't done yet?

It was from some years that I thought to return to play and the name SINOATH was free, I had something to say musically and then I have thought to reform the band releasing some songs that I wanted to make 18 years ago. Obviously all starts from the passion for music.

The band was created about 18 years ago. What do you remember from this period? I remember you had some very good years.

We were some young people, and when you are young all is much more interesting and beautiful, moreover the scene was indeed in ferment, we have had great moments because we were one of the first bands to mix dark Death and to use the keyboards in this kind of music but then unfortunately the band has some line-up changes that lead us to stop it. So our activity never was truly constant.

What is the current line-up of SINOATH and could



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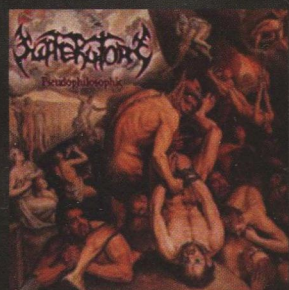
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"CARVED IN STONE always had the atmosphere of a kind of campfire music!"

CARVED IN STONE isn't the typical Brutallica band, it is actually not even a Metal band but to prove that we are an open-minded magazine with varied tastes and no restrictions I decided to get in touch with the mastermind behind the band - Swawa, who is also known for her work with the Viking Metal band TAUNUSHEIM. So, let's see what stands behind the mystic folk of CARVED IN STONE...

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

CARVED IN STONE

It seems that CARVED IN STONE is a very peculiar project for you. When did you form the band and what are its peaks so far?

Greetings! I can't really give you an exact date when it all started with CIS. It was a collection of self-written songs which I started composing at the age of about 15. After joining TAUNUSHEIM, Patrick of Schwarzdorn Productions found out about these songs and it was his idea to publish them. Nobody expected them to turn out so successful, so the development of CIS was a big surprise for all of us. About peaks... hmm, I think I had a lot of highlights so far, but I must admit that I am not setting any goals concerning the band. I'm only making music and I don't care if an album sells good or bad (of course Patrick has a different opinion about that ha, ha...). But if a lot of people like it, it's a great thing to me and it makes me proud. To me, each e-mail I get from a happy fan is a highlight, really!

Can you make a comparison between CARVED IN STONE in the beginning and now in 2008?

The early recordings of CIS were very raw and compared to now, the quality surely was not really good. But the problem was that we didn't really have the best equipment. Concerning the songs, CIS always had the same style of music without any change. Some people complained that there has been no development in the music since the first CD, but guys, I have to tell you that you will never really see a development in CIS, because I have no idea what such a development should sound like, since CIS always had the atmosphere of a kind of campfire music. The songs of all CIS albums were created in the same time period, from 1995 till 2000, so it is pretty logical, that the songs all have the same handwriting. I don't see CIS as music for the masses; it is the simple structure, the silent atmosphere and the mood that make the songs so touching for its listeners. So I can live with the fact that the music could be too unspectacular for some people!©

You play Folk Music performed with

acoustic instruments mostly.

Can you say what instruments you used in your latest album "Tales of Glory & Tragedy"?

The basic instruments of CIS surely are acoustic guitar and flutes; I use them in nearly every song. The only additional - and non-acoustic- instrument I use is a synthesizer, but I use it very carefully and very much in the background, more like a basis.

What kind of Folk is the music of CARVED IN STONE? You know every country has its own authentic folk music, but I'm not sure what kind of folk yours is?

I must admit that we have never been absolutely happy with the expression "folk music" to describe CIS, but it seemed to be the most familiar comparison to us. We declared CIS to be "Mystic Folk" to point out that the music didn't come from a certain region of the world, because myths and mystic can be found everywhere. Over the years I decided to use the expression "Campfire music" more and more often, because it describes the style perhaps a little better. But still "Mystic Folk" gives a good impression of the lyrical character of the songs, because CIS deals with a lot of mystical topics and tales.

I'm impressed by the realism and dynamics of the vocals. What kinds of equipment did you use during the recording process?

Thanks for the compliment! We kept the vocals very natural, without big reverbs or other effects to keep the authentic style of the music. The microphone we used was not the cheapest, but as far as I'm concerned, it wasn't a big label, too. The recordings went straight into Patrick's laptop, there we could eliminate

disturbing sounds, and after the mastering we could offer a quality that seemed to be very good in our eyes.

How can you explain the fact that a lot of Metal fans buy your records? Even the label which releases your records is a Metal label?!

I am a metalhead myself, have been for over 17 years now, and if I had the right voice, CIS surely would have become a Metal project, too. Therefore I can perhaps understand why so many Metal-listeners buy a CIS album. It is handmade music that has a certain authenticity; people might feel that I stand behind what I'm singing and that it is no fake. Besides, the topics of the songs are very much about fantasy, ancient tales and the old religion of our forefathers - which plays a big role in my private life, too - and these are topics you can find in a lot of Metal bands, too. **I do not have the original CD of your latest album but I heard it has a very intriguing artwork created by HvemSkulle. Could you describe it? How important is the artwork for you?**

When it came to the artwork of "Tales..." it was more than clear to me that HvemSkulle was the only one to create an artwork for it. He also did the first two booklets for CIS and he always did a great job. The artwork of an album to me is very important because most of the time it is the cover page that catches the attention

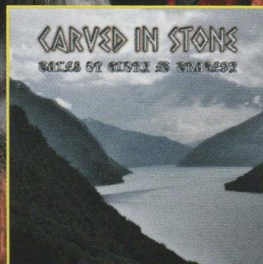
of someone standing in the music store. This time I didn't give Erik any pictures or photos, I just told him that he could do whatever he wanted... and I think he really liked it :)... The booklet is again excellent work; he used a lot of wild and raw nature photographs and combined them for example with photos from firesites. He also used Celtic knots but in a very unintruding way, which is one of his special skills in my eyes. He knows how to fill pictures and photos with magic.

You sing both in English and German, right? Does it have a difference for you? I feel you are more emotional when you sing in German.

Most of the English songs are older ones, because in the earlier days I thought it was just a usual thing to sing in English. But over the years I grew tired of always looking words up in the dictionary to find fitting words for rhyme schemes - which are very important to me - and I had the feeling that I just couldn't express clearly what I wanted to say. Singing in German, I didn't have to search long for words, I just could let it flow. So I started writing more and more songs in German. It might be that these songs sound more intense because they come more from my inside than the English ones.

You also play in the Viking Metal band TAUNUSHEIM. Are there any similarities between CARVED IN STONE and TAUNUSHEIM?

The only similarity between TAUNUSHEIM and CIS might be the contents of the lyrics and the acoustic sequences in the songs of TAUNUSHEIM. It is a Metal band, so the music is much more raw and aggressive, but there are also parts in the songs that have this campfire feeling, too. The most important thing in both bands surely is the atmosphere, but while CIS it is more silent and dreamsunken,



TAUNUSHEIM is more the fist in the face, singing about battles and the old gods in a more violent and blood-shedding way. May sounds strange, but I just didn't know how to describe the difference better...

Have you played in other bands/projects?
I've played in other Metal bands since I was 17. I played in a Death/Doom Metal band called DARK INTENTION - covering songs like "Where Dead Angels Lie" from DISSECTION or "By My Own Hand" from CEMETERY, and in a Death/Black Metal band called PAIMON. My first band broke up; I don't know what happened to the other, since I have no contact with the members anymore. But these were important lessons to learn and I'm happy that I could be a part of this.

What are the "tales" of glory and tragedy you're singing about? How can you describe the lyrical content?

I have a huge love for old English and German ballads of the last centuries, I believe in the ancient gods and the children of nature such as elves, giants and all those forgotten creatures. These are the main characters of the tales I am singing about, old legends and songs, sagas and myths. But also CIS is about the melancholic sides of life, I often sing about death and cruel fates, such as in the song "Abschied" where a warrior is holding the hand of his dying friend, talking to him and sharing the last moments of his life with him. My songs never have happy endings, at least not in a traditional way. Once I wrote a song about a loving couple, a young girl and a demon, and at the end she said the light goodbye and joined him in his nightly life. One

of my friends said that CIS was an excellent thing to kill every party because everybody would just sit there starting to think how he could kill himself in the best way... and this was meant as a compliment, ha, ha!

Do you have plans for other musical experiments with CARVED IN STONE?
Hmm, not really. I think it is fine the way it is, if some people may find it boring, that's okay. There will always be people who say the opposite, and as long as this happens, CIS will stay like it is, because for me and for this band it's the only way to be.

Have you ever performed the music of CARVED IN STONE live? It would be interesting to know what the mood of the audience is.

I must admit that I am the biggest CHICKEN in the world. I had lots of offers, even from well-known German bands... but I'm too scared to perform live. Of course I have live-experience from my former bands, but CIS is so important and means so much to me, that I could not handle it if a live gig didn't turn out well. That would be horror for me.

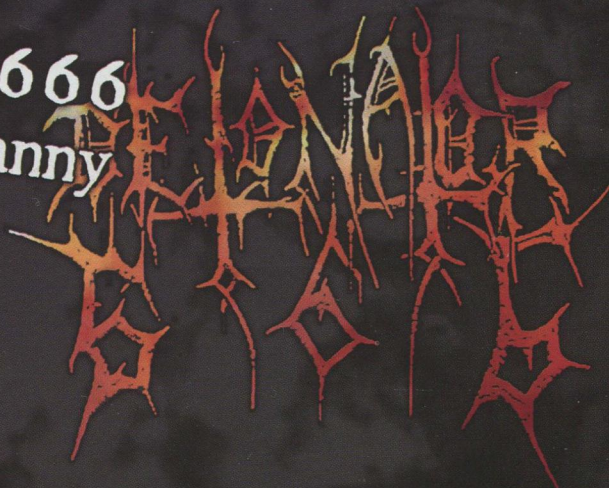
I have no idea if this will ever change and it surely would be interesting to the audience's reaction, but in the near future I'm nearly sure that there will be no live gigs of CIS.

What can we expect from CARVED IN STONE in the near future?
We're planning a re-release of the first CIS album "The Forgotten Belief", but I can't exactly say when this will happen. It was limited to

500 copies because we didn't know if anybody would be interested in it...but it turned out to be such a success that we were angry about the limitation. Still people keep asking for it and we want to give them the possibility of listening to the old material, too. But first we are working on new material of TAUNUSHEIM and that has priority at the moment.

INFERNUS REX presents:

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Supremacy & Tyranny



Featuring members of cult Czech Black Metal legends MANIAC BUTCHER, Detonator 666 spew forth aggressive Black Metal mixing DARKTHRONE, MANIAC BUTCHER and NIFELHEIM!

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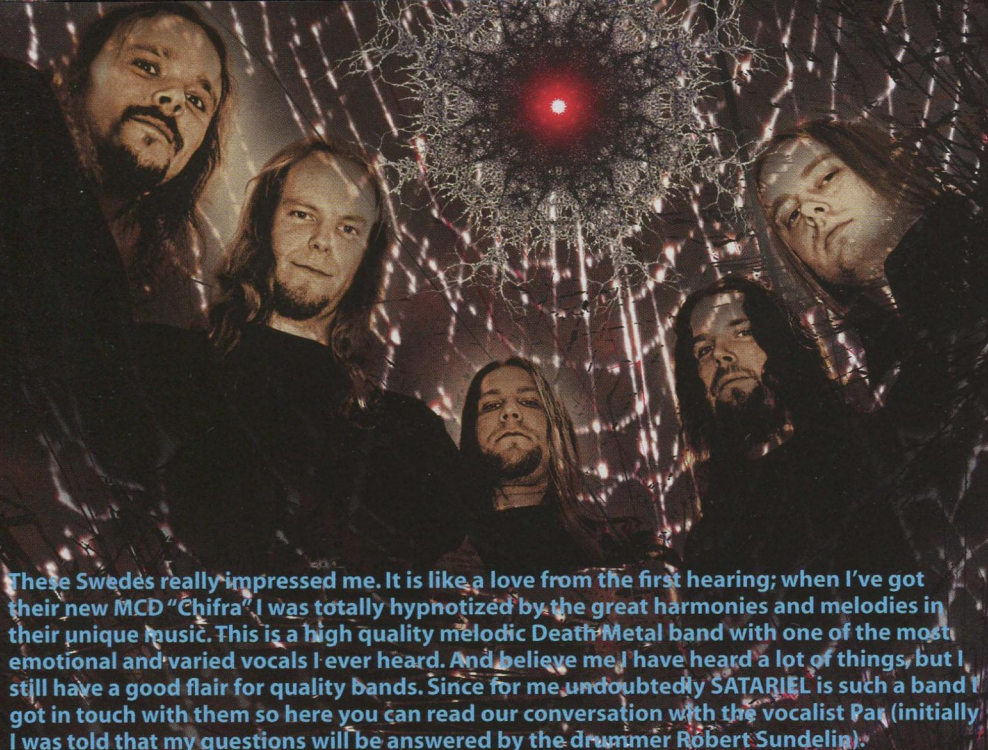
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These Swedes really impressed me. It is like a love from the first hearing; when I've got their new MCD "Chifra" I was totally hypnotized by the great harmonies and melodies in their unique music. This is a high quality melodic Death Metal band with one of the most emotional and varied vocals I ever heard. And believe me I have heard a lot of things, but I still have a good flair for quality bands. Since for me undoubtedly SATARIEL is such a band I got in touch with them so here you can read our conversation with the vocalist Par (initially I was told that my questions will be answered by the drummer Robert Sundelin).

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

First I'd like to tell you that your new MCD "Chifra" smashed me, I usually receive about 1000 records per year but most of them are like Siamese twins. I haven't heard such emotional and unique band like SATARIEL since the early works of CANDLEMASS.

Thanks - that is pleasing to hear!

I'm a little confused because, as far as I know, you were signed with Cold Records (a division of Regain Records) but the new MCD is released by your first label - Pulverized Records. Could you explain it? Have you signed a new deal with Pulverized?

You are right. Here's the deal; we are still signed to Cold Records - we were free to record an EP on whatever other label we wanted. And, Pulverized was not a bad choice - the label has evolved some since we released our debut album there.

Where did you record "Chifra" and who engineered it? Did you invite any guest musicians to take part in the recordings? I may say the production is amazing.

We recorded basically everything ourselves this time, in our guitarist Magnus own studio (he works as a sound engineer besides SATARIEL, so he's got a real nice set up) and then we took it to Daniel Bergstrand who mixed it finally. No guests at all this time, if one does not count a friend of ours - Wilhem Fischerström, that just dropped in and gave some bass lines and backing vocals.

Could you tell us about your friendship with Messiah Marcolin and does he take part in any of your albums?

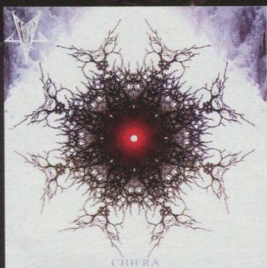
I don't "know" Messiah like we are buddies hanging out or so - we just had the chance to work a little with him on "Phobos" and "Deimos" some years ago. He has nothing to do with SATARIEL these days - it was a one time thing.

Have you heard the latest CANDLEMASS album "King of the Grey Islands" and if yes what are your impressions of the new vocalist Robert Lowe? How do you see CANDLEMASS without Messiah?

Yes, I was and saw them live not long ago - and I must say I had my doubts how they would do with the new setting. But - it blew my mind - the new vocalist does his work top notch! And the new album holds up too. Though my personal favourites there always probably will be from times gone by.

You have a new guitar player, right? Why did Mike leave the band and what can you tell us about Simon Johansson? Do you think he can bring even more variety to the music of SATARIEL?

Mike basically just told us one day that he did not feel like playing guitar anymore, whatsoever... It was no drama, and we are still friends, but we had not seen



that coming I can tell ya! Simon was our first choice afterwards - he joined quite instant also. We have known him for some time and know his skills (he plays some solos on "Hydra" also, btw) and he seems to be the right kind of person chemistry-wise in the band.

What was the situation with the Greek label Black Lotus Records?

To be honest, I don't remember too good the details now, as it was almost

five years ago... So I ain't gonna talk them down or anything... but basically it was a bad deal I guess we can sum it up.

My favourite SATARIEL songs are "The Freedom Fall" (from the album "Hydra" and "Hogtied Angel" (from the MCD "Chifra"). What is the story of each track and what are the emotions and feelings they represent?

For "The Freedom Fall" the idea was more or less about how mankind's efforts and gains throughout our history have brought us to a peek, where one more or less can say - "well, look at it - this beauty has to come from a deity", or you'd say - "all this, and still the universe is such a shithole?" And in a sense, they both mean a death to the concept of will (the biblical, based around the Fall out of Eden on the one hand, and the nihilistic approach that - we can still make no difference, obviously)... But in the end - you should interpret it as you wish. A slightly shorter answer for "Hogtied Angel"; it is pretty much about being sealed in the flesh, and the hinders of the mundane world of living...and how it stings when you feel you can not partake in life, as is the norm... for one reason or another....

What can you tell me about the front cover of "Chifra"? I think there is some special meaning, could you reveal it?

It has now secret meaning... The title Chifra comes from chifre/chiffer etc...so - a symbolic cover that hints the themes, without giving them all away seemed fitting. Thus it turned out to be this "mandala"-looking motif. I haven't heard your first album "Lady Lust Lilith". Does it differ from your last works both musically and lyrically?

Yes, it does; musically we were much more pure Death Metal, and the songs were faster. Lyrically I guess I still move in the same obscure territories, but they were perhaps a bit coloured by the age in which I wrote them (meaning both my own teen-age, and the mid 90s metascenes age).

Have you completed the work on your new album? Maybe you even have a title for it? What will it include and is it true it will be more aggressive?

Work is being done, but we are far from done as we have not gotten into the studio yet. The title is "White

"I do not limit myself to this or that... Everything that is good is good, even be it not Metal"

Ink"... Aggressive... well, to be frank with you - that was mostly a goal when we had just started on it... One never knows with us how things turn out in the end... It might even be nicer, ha, ha! Though, I don't hope, nor believe so.

Have you been on a big tour until now? I know this is the real passion of almost every musician - to present his music live to as many fans as possible. Where have you played so far and what are your best impressions?

The biggest and so far only real tour we've been on was in 2003 with NECROPHOBIC and IMPIOUS. It was basically a tour through Europe - the dates are still seen on our website in the gig section, so I don't need to ramble all here). And a good one! I mostly liked Italy and Holland. And Slovakia sucked the worst. But all the fans were great at all places - the reasons which make one better than the other had more with organization to do. So - no Slovakian people should feel badmouthed! We are a bit lazy in this sense - we have gotten offers of tours afterwards too, but turned them down either because of shitty organization and conditions, or that people have offered us to go on the road with totally "wrong" bands... The band package gotta work - no use in going on the road to play for 50 people in a bunker somewhere, you know?

What do you think is the normal budget for the recording of an album for a band like SATARIEL?

Sometimes the final mastering may cost more than the whole recording session. I know bands that have paid about 7000 euro to record their albums but the sells are about 1000. I don't see a sense in this, yet business is business, no one wants to lose money.

Well, I ain't gonna speak what we cost, as that differs from time to time, depending on HOW one chooses to record. But yeah - I know many bands that have pumped in far more than 7000 euro in albums, that I can not think sell enough to break even the cost for it. Of course that makes no sense.

Some people put some style restrictions in their tastes: "this is too heavy for me" or "this is too soft". I never put any restriction because I think every style represents some kind of feelings and emotions. I like PINK FLOYD, I like CANDLEMASS, SATARIEL but I also like MORBID ANGEL, NAPALM DEATH, TERRORIZER... How do you see your musical tastes in the light of the above-written?

I totally agree with you. I do not limit myself to this or that... Everything that is good is good, even be it not Metal. Simple as that I think. Small-and-narrow-minded people should definitely not be into Metal...as that is sort of a breach to what Metal is, or at least was, once upon time.

Your vocalist Par Johansson has studied magic and occult traditions, right? He is probably an inexhaustible source of themes for your lyrics. What are the most frequently used themes in the lyrics of SATARIEL and are your albums actually conceptual?

Haha, well, as I happen to be Par, I think I can answer this one as well as the previous ones. As you may understand - it would be totally too much to drag out all themes during the years for each and every song I have written... So, you'll have to do with a sum up; frequently used theme by me = things that interest me or otherwise compels my imagination and mind. That may be a looooot of things. They sadly all seem to have a tendency to be rather dark and despaired.

What can we expect from SATARIEL this year?

"White Ink", our new album. Then we'll see.

How do you see the current Underground scene in Sweden? Could you recommend us any new bands that really deserve attention?

The Underground scene is dead, isn't? It died when people stopped trading demo tapes and sending real letters and so on according to me... There are too many bands popping up all the time nowadays. I have no clue... Oh, by the way - one band that is Underground I can recommend: CURSED 13.

I'd like to thank you for your time. From this time on I'll add a new name in my favourite bands list - SATARIEL. What is your message to the numerous Metal fans?

Thank you for a good and lengthy interview! Hmm, I'll say both to you and all the fans out there - hope to see you soon on tour. But, like I said, we are lazy on that part, haha - so see it to it get your local promoter to contact our booking with proper deals!

I never became a good bass player but I've learnt how to make one of the best basses and guitars in the world.

You can't avoid liking his instruments. You can't avoid liking him too - Kostadin Dimitrov, the mastermind behind the KD BASSES - hand-made electric guitars and basses made in Bulgaria. He grew up with his instruments and they grew up with him. If you want a good guitar, do not hesitate to contact him, at least for his advices... I know his story makes an interesting reading!

IVAILO TONCHEV

Hello! Would you like to tell us more about...?

Hi Brutallica readers and you who take music as something more than just fun! I'd like to thank the Brutallica magazine team for the kind invitation and cooperation. My name's Kostadin Dimitrov and I've been making electric basses and guitars for more than 10 years now. I can't say the exact date when I started. However, I can say it was a very long and hard road I had to walk before the KD instruments started looking and sounding the way they do now. I spent a lot of time experimenting and trying to uncover world-leading luthiers' secret techniques and characteristics for making quality guitars and basses. By doing this I've created my own vision and techniques in making basses and guitars. Now I can share what others say about them - "...instruments with their own unmistakable character and style."

You have created dozens of instruments. What inspires you to create...?

Every new improved instrument roots in an already existing one. I often get ideas for new instruments while I make an instrument come to life. Of course, there are exceptions when people I meet, Nature with its forces or the very music inspire me. I have a few instruments I haven't planned beforehand. I'll give you an example with LAVA RB. I had no blueprint for it. However, I found the amazing wood you can see in the bass (if you visit my web site), and it determined the form of the instrument and the wood it needed to be combined with.

I think the world around us is full of beauty. It only needs sharp eye and skilful hand to recreate all this and even to make the world more beautiful.

Are guitars old-fashioned? You can do whatever kind of music you want on your computer. Do we need these stylish, yet wooden instruments?

Definitely not! The word old-fashioned can't define KD instruments. People who have bought or seen my instruments say they are "futuristic, modern, unique pieces, instruments which can't be compared to any of the instruments of existing guitar makers in the world. To your second question I'll give this answer: Yes, it's true kids buy PCs, music software and try to become musicians. However, being a real musician doesn't mean playing on the PC. The PC has to be in the head not in the hands. However, it's their own choice. I personally don't worry about computers or that computer-based music business will throw guitar-makers in the corner. My instruments are boutique ones. They are mostly aimed at proven professional guitar or bass players. I try to make "Stradivari"-like instruments. I want my instruments to have distinctive image and sound and when people see them to say "Hey, this is a KD instrument!" That's why I can't and don't try to make two identical instruments.

Do mp3s kill music and how do they affect the guitar making?

Look, I think that the existence of mp3 was a real musician playing a real musical instrument. There is no direct link between mp3 and guitar making business. I also think that neither of them stands in the other's way. The major problem is with intellectual property. What I also mean is music piracy and some quite unfair copying of my guitars and basses by colleagues around the world.

What inspired you for the first guitar? Any certain song or...?

I had the basics of bass playing but I realized I was better in making guitars than playing them. In fact my interest in making music instruments appeared spontaneously and developed gradually during the years. As for my passion - basses, it overwhelmed me in my school years, when me and a few of my schoolmates decided to make a rock band. To find good music instruments at that time was a hard thing to do. Our school supplied us with a small part of the equipment; the rest we had to find. That's the case with my first bass guitar. After long searching for someone who had a bass for sale, I found a guy who had one thrown somewhere in his garage. I bought the piece and the first thing I did was to bring it back to life. I repainted it and changed its electronics. I wanted it to look and

sound good. Now looking back, I see that bass showed me the way I am now on. I never became a good bass player but I've learnt how to make one of the best guitars in the world.

KDBASSES.COM is the internet site that you use to promote your activities. What are the reactions thus far?

I was really surprised to see so many people interested in my instruments and it's very difficult for me to answer all the questions, inquires and comments I get on time. Therefore I've tried to make my website as informative as possible in order to make it easier for visitors to get full technical and visual information about the instruments.

Why can't you make a guitar out of any tree? I was told that you order pieces of wood from the most exotic corners of the world...

There's a Bulgarian saying "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." This is true for music instruments too. The type of wood has to be carefully selected before using it in any of my instruments. There're a lot of factors which determine what type of wood is suitable for use and what isn't. I use some exotic types of wood imported from Indonesia, Malaysia etc. I believe that a unique instrument must be made of unique materials and in a unique way.

How can I order one of your guitars? Can you describe the entire process, what ways of payment do you accept, how do you deliver the instruments to the customers, how do you pack? All these standard questions that the customers ask, when ordering stuff from an obscure place, like Bulgaria.

I can't agree that Bulgaria is an obscure place. A lot of the visitors of the website say something I fully agree with, namely "Bulgaria is well known on the music instruments market with its high quality violins, violas, basses, acoustic guitars in particular". This is a fact which can't be neglected. As for the ordering details of KD instruments, every order is strictly individual and depends on a lot of factors, predominantly on the customer's preferences and my ability to satisfy them.

How much do your guitars cost? Can you become a millionaire or is it just a hobby?

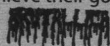
KD instrument prices are higher than the prices of serial production instruments. They compete with the prices of custom-made guitars and basses. The price of every instrument depends on the invested materials and labour. Very soon, I'll put in my site the new six-string electric guitar which will cost approximately €4000. I'm not sure if I'd become a millionaire selling my guitars but I know I'll make no compromise with high quality. I make musical instruments because I like it and it brings me great pleasure. Some may call this a hobby, a fever or a mania. For me guitar making is all three taken together. I am "addicted" to it.

Who plays your guitars? Any interesting stories around...?

Five years ago I made a five-string bass with Floyd Rose and sold it in Bulgaria. Some time after that I saw a concert of an American rock band (unknown, didn't get the name) on TV. I was really surprised to see the bass-player playing my five-string bass. The roads of music are unforeseeable. Three years ago I made several instruments especially for the German Rock band SPLIFF with the logo they wanted. I've recently heard the band has changed its name and members. However the instruments are the same. I also have customers from Japan and Sweden I have worked for a long time with.

Last words...

I wish the readers of Brutallica, most of all, good health and strong will to achieve their goals.





Here I'd like to present to your attention an Italian Black Metal band simply named – KULT. The band was created in 2002 as an alternative to the growing symphonic Black Metal trend. The guys wanted to get back the true, raw Black Metal, simple songs but with a catchy feeling. I found the guitarist and main composer Kacele to answer my questions.

STEFAN STEFANOV

HELLO! At first, would you like to say some words about KULT to our readers?

Zdrasti! It's a pleasure to be interviewed by a Bulgarian Magazine. I've been there in March for make a trip and I liked your lands a lot. I bought a Tangra medallion. He he..

Your band plays Black Metal in its almost pure form, although I can't stop thinking that it's actually War Black Metal. Do you agree with me?

I don't think it's War Black Metal, cause every track has its own influence and as you can listen there are mid tempos, slow and melancholic riffs. I don't like to repeat myself and to make albums with different styles inside. Easy/simple songs but with a catchy feeling.

Please tell me about the recording in Alpha & Omega Studio and whether you feel satisfied at last?

We decided to record in Alpha & Omega studio 'cause we are close friends of ANCIENT (the Black Metal band) and the owner of the studio is their manager and sound engineer. I'm satisfied because it was fast and the master was very powerful. The right sound is very important to me... I want a good compromise between power and raw sound. I think that "Winds Of War" is a good compromise of what I wanted.

Which are the themes in the album's lyrics? And why is the third song in the infosheet titled "Il Crepuscolo" but in the promo version the name is "Guerriero di un tempo perduto"?

"Winds Of War" is not a concept album. Lyrics are all about the dark side of mankind, the natural human being... so torture, violence and so on. It's useless that we try to hide our natural instincts... the dark side is a part of us all well as the right side. Some try to hide it, some try not to listen to it but the truth is that it is still there lurking in the dark and waiting for the right time to come outside.

The artwork of "Winds Of War" is actually a photograph which a perfect complement to the album title. Where did you find it?

It's taken from a collection of a Russian photographer. I think that this kind of pictures can catch your attention very easily... this cover is very raw and sad to me.

How did it happen that Aphazel from ANCIENT accepted to play the guitar parts for your album? Is he already an official KULT member or not?

Well, to be honest this is a mistake... probably I wrote it in a wrong way on the booklet. Anyway Aphazel has never played guitars in KULT, Aphazel has simply



recorded my guitar lines with his home recording equipment making me a very big favour. The studio was too expensive and he gave me a hand to finish the recording for free.

Do you think someday there will be a Third World War and if so, will it be more massive and more devastating than the previous two world wars?

War is one of the most terrible things that could happen... It can get you mad and this is something you cannot wish

anyone... You just need to ask some ex-Yugoslavian people. Technology has also opened the door to something much terrible like mass murders.

How did you get in touch with Debemur Morti Prod and did you sign a contract for more albums?

Well, everything has been easier than you think: I simply sent the album master to some labels and Debemur Morti offered the best deal. It was a perfect choice 'cause they are serious and fast. They did everything they promised and they really believe in what they are doing/producing. I signed one album deal but they are interested in doing also our next album so...

What's goin' on with the other two bands - ARVIND and EXECUTIONER which you take part in too?

Well, EXECUTIONER is our singer's side project band born just for fun but as far as I know they are not much active lately. ARVIND was my first band in which I played guitar... unfortunately the ginger/bassist and main composer left the band some years ago declaring the end of the project itself. The other members don't have my interest to continue so I decided to leave as well and form KULT just to play the same style but with MY songs.

Do you use any stimulants (alcohol, marijuana, etc.) for inspiration while creating your own music or all just flows straight from the heart?

I'm inspired by what I feel/live everyday... a deep emptiness. I don't like drugs and I don't smoke as well. "Alpha" and "Omega" - respectively the titles of the Intro and the Outro in the album are actually the first and the last letters in the Greek alphabet. In that case, can we talk of a conceptual album?

I used A & O just because on the Greek alphabet they are the start and the end of everything. On the CD the song is the same but played one right and the other

reverse.

Do you think that humanity heads slowly but steadily to its end?

Yes I think so... we can't going ahead in that way, neither upgrade ourselves... there are many theories that confirm a close end of everything.

Is it still possible to find your demo "Darkness Return" somewhere, because my info is it was totally sold out for 3 months?

Yes the tape sold out very soon and I think it's almost impossible for you to find it around. Anyway I saw some mp3 blogs that posted it for a free download. Maybe if you surf into the deep Underground you can get the songs to listen to at least.

Italy has its deep roots on the world's Underground scene, presenting names like NECRODEATH, OPERA IX, EVOL etc. Do you think your band will continue this "tradition" together with many other Italian bands?

The bands you mentioned are very famous here and they also bring the name of Italy outside our borders... this is good but we didn't follow their style neither their ideology. We are born into another dimension and in another age basically... we just want to play different music and with our sound but anyway I hope that some people will think about us when talking about Italian music in the future. It would be great.

Debemur Morti constantly stresses that there are no keyboards and female vocals in your music. Do you really hate these elements in Metal?

I'm very open minded and I listen to many kinds of music so if the music is good why not to use keyboards in it? I personally like Black-Metal without keyboards,

"I personally like Black-Metal without keyboards, I just think that guitars should give the good feelings and keep the whole sound extreme as well. Keyboards sometimes are too soft and dreamy... Black Metal should be raw and hellish"

I just think that guitars should give the good feelings and keep the whole sound extreme as well. Keyboards sometimes are too soft and dreamy... Black Metal should be raw and hellish.

Tell me the latest news about KULT? Are there some plans for future live gigs?

We changed our drummer lately and we have many live shows/summer festivals confirmed for next months. Germany, Netherlands, Belgium and Slovenia are some of those countries.

Please mention 5 names from the world Underground scene, which you think are "Pure Fucking Black Metal Kult"!

INQUISITION, ARKANUM, DEATHSPELL OMEGA, MGLA, INFERNO...

Thanks for the interview! Your last words to our readers...

Blagodarya for your interest in KULT. I want to greet Kapka, Gogo, the guys in Sofia and Teodora Borisova.

MORTUARY DRAPE

Into the Catachthonium



They are infamous for having extravagant live shows with corpses, candles, hoods, occult insignia, and other dark elements. Which you can see why these guys don't mess with their strong beliefs. Into the Catachthonium is a great way to first get into this band. It is their first material with a very well production, released with the permission and direction of the band, include lyrics, exclusive photos and bonus tracks. If you like 80's experimental music as well as early black metal and occult themes then I recommend this to you with high esteem.

This 16-song ritual offering comprises the band's 1991 Into The Drape mini-CD and their 1994 All The Witches Dance full-length plus bonus material:

Raw old-school black metal theatre..

MUTILATED CHRIST / FROSTMOON Split 1998



The CD contains the first demo of the best Ecuadorian Black Metal band MUTILATED CHRIST "Bautismo pagano" recorded in 1995, with 4 songs, and the cult band FROSTMOON from Norway, who collaborates with 1997 7"EP Tordenkrig released through Oskorei Prods. This CD is released thanks to Oskorei Graphix and Hell Institute after 10 years in the darkness and it is indelible landmarks inside the saga of MUTILATED CHRIST and the Norwegian band FROSTMOON.

www.myspace.com/mutilatedchristfrostmoon

Coming soon on Hell Institute:

El Estigio "El Sendero del Brujo- Shamanic-Black Metal" CD

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WHOLESALE - LABEL - DISTRIBUTION



GOSPEL OF THE HORNS

One of the best records for the last few months for me undoubtedly is GOSPEL OF THE HORNS' "Realm Of The Damned"; I loved it after the first listening, there is some catchy magic in it, probably because it reminds me for the 80s when I was a teenager and every new album was something special. Now everything is so modern and so easily accessible, I somehow lost the thrill but "Realm Of The Damned" was the right medicine for me. I wanted to have this band on the pages of Brutallica and with the help of Darragh from Invictus Records I managed to track out the band.

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

How is the beer in Melbourne? What kind of shit do you drink mostly over there in Australia?

Ah yes the Aussie beer, well my favorite beer is without doubt Coopers Ale a mighty fine drop indeed. I'd say the ones which we would most consume would be coopers, tooheys old, blue tongue lizard, holgate, james squire ale and little creatures pils.

How was the last live crime of GOSPEL OF THE HORNS? Have you already counted all the victims? It was carnage & butchering all night I guess?!

Our last show was in Brisbane on the 10th May. It was a truly chaotic night of Black Thrashing mayhem. Over 300 maniacs joined us on this night. By the end of the show there were bodies smashed into oblivion...this is our last live assault in our homeland before we invade America... GOSPEL OF THE HORNS are primed...locked and loaded to inflict massive neck aches to the west coast hordes. No prisoners shall be taken...onwards to obliteration "Realm of the Damned" is a great portion of mesmerizing blackened Thrash with fucking vital riffs and unstoppable force. What is the secret of its success? It smashed my left brain.

Our main goal with "Realm of the Damned" was to inflict nothing more than blackened fury to the listener. It had to remain within the mind of the person well after they had listened to it. More than anything else we wanted to captivate them, then primarily...crush! I think the secret to gospels trade is to keep it simple whilst still being able to deliver a subsonic boot to the face, and in turn always evolving and not resting on ones laurels!

What do you remember about the beginning of GOSPEL OF THE HORNS? Where did you get this name from? Who were the original members?

Looking back on the old days I'd say the most prominent thing which comes to mind is a group of crazy, demonized individuals who were prepared to take on anything which stood in our ways. Nothing was sacred and nothing was spared...the name came from us sitting around one night watching the army of darkness, and having BATHORY belting out in the background... somehow from this we came up with the title of GOSPEL OF THE HORNS. Deathdealer, Transvaal and I (Howitzer) were the 3 original members of this unholy creation. Some people call George W. Bush a "devil", but in my opinion this is an insult to the devil. I haven't seen the

devil yet but I guess he has a brain at least, ha, ha.

Ha ha...indeed. Bush could only be pictured dancing with the devil if he was on all fours taking it up the arse like a little bitch...nothing more nothing less! I reckon an image of mad max screaming down the lost highway in a hotted up beast of damnation is majestic way to imagine the devil yeah!

What guitar effect did you use when you recorded "Realm Of The Damned"? It has the good old analog vibe.

Answer by masochist

The one thing going into the studio this time round is, we didn't want the guitar sound off "A Call To Arms" (no offence to people who like that sound). I'd done plenty of albums with guitar sounds I was not happy with so on "Realm..." we brought in a "shitload" of amps and in the end we ended up using an Orange Head through Marshall cab, my Rack gear with the Orange cab and a Hughes & Kettner transistor head in the middle of the mix, but in the background, to thicken up the sound and give it another dimension...but apart from that, the Orange & Rack stuff was all Tube Amps & these we're ran through a very expensive old tube E.Q. to add more warmth!

Actually the whole album has a whiff of the 80s - the years of true Thrash/Black Metal. What do you remember from this period?

Everything was fresh...none of this rehearsed retro shit. It was without doubt a new dawn in Metal...the whole attitude evolved around blasphemy, chaos and

unrestrained energy...there were no barriers...no rules, just a total will to create something new...something which would forever leave its mark on this decrepit world!

Tell me about the GOSPEL OF THE HORNS releases prior to "Realm Of The Damned"?

Our first official release was with Damnation Records... this was the MLP "Eve Of the Conqueror" which came out in 1999. We very proud of this recording, it was the perfect recording that we could have ever done to represent where the band was back then. Then came "A Call T Arms" on Invictus Records. This was the CD which really got our name out there, and let people know what the band were about and what we had to offer. Our alliance with invictus has been a major reason why we have managed to get our name out and about to the overseas hordes. Again this is a recording we take pride in...many of the tracks from this CD are in our live set...the maniacs seem to enjoy hearing these numbers... Black Thrashing Metal the Australian sinners way!

Have you been deceived by any label that you have worked with until now?

I'm sure many of your readers would know about the debacle with Einstand Records from Italy...they pressed our 94 demo on CD only to fuck it up royally by putting the wrong photos on the CD booklet (another band) as well as screwing up other layout matters...something I wish to forget...utterly useless bastards!

How many times have you played in Europe and what do you think about the European fans compared to these in Australia?

We've played in Europe twice, the tour in 2000, & the 2003 tour, which was the last time we we're there unfortunately! The European fans are so more passionate and into it, I mean, there are a lot of die hard Aussie thrashers that go to gig's but a lot of the people that go to 'gigs' in Australia are there for the booze, chicks and that's about it! However in saying that we do have a strong core of maniacs who help create the spirit of what gospel of the horns and other elite Aussie bands are striving to achieve...

Over the years you've had quite a lot of line up changes. What were the reasons? Unserious people? Drugs & alcohol abuse? Mental disorders?

Mental disorders...hehe, yeah we've all got those... No too be honest, at times, band members have lost a bit of

passion, or uninspired but, we've all been through it, and at the end of it all we're all still together and about to embark on the U.S tour so, I think you grow up & learn a lot from these changes!

Say some descriptive words about each of the tracks included in "Realm Of The Damned"

"Aggression Through Blood" - take on all comers. "Trial By Power" - gospel of the horns. "Death Sentence" - survival of the fittest. "Blood and iron" - unbridled passion and honour. "Retribution" - none are equal...conquer! "Resilience" - merciless and harsh. "1915" - ANZAC spirit...to reign! "Strength Through Fear" - mastership of all. "Realm of the Damned" - the god of war...unrelenting, nature!

The most insane band from Australia I remember was SADISTIK EKEKUTION. They had some very crazy fans here in Europe. I even know people who have flown to see them live in Australia. Do you know these guys personally and why did they stop the band?

I can't offer any explanation as to why they came to an abrupt end...maybe there combined insanity was a factor haha...I know Mr. Hades very well, we have had many crazy nights on the beers etc... There is talk that they will once again join forces but I guess we shall have to see what transpires!

What are the most significant Underground Metal labels in Australia at the moment? Where do you buy Metal CDs, vinyls, merchandise from?

The most respected labels would be Obsidian Records, Stigmartyr Records, Bleed Records...of course we have

Modern Invasion which has released BESTIAL WARLUST and DESTROYER 666. As for places to purchase material I'd say Missing Link, Dixons, Heartland, Rare records and Metal Emporium.

Have you made any cover versions?

We recorded "Blood Death Hatred" on our "Monuments Of Impurity 7" EP which is a MORTAL SIN cover. Also over the years we have played "sacrifice" (BATHORY), "Sodomy And Lust" (SODOM), "Outbreak Of Evil" (SODOM) and "black arts" (BEHERIT)...these tracks are true classics which we have always tried to unleash in its most blasphemous form!

How much money have you spent to get the equipment of the band? What do you possess now: drum kits, guitars, mics, effects, etc? According to you, what is the best equipment for a band like GOSPEL OF THE HORNS?

All up we have collectively spent about \$25'000-\$30'000 dollars over the years on equipment...Hellcunt has a few kit's, Masochist & Marauder have numerous quality axes including a custom 81' les paul, B.C Rich 'Wave' 83' (not made anymore), B.C Rich 'Mockingbird' and a lot of other 'goodies'... Howitzer has a couple of Basses, including a Custom 'Explorer'. We've all got quality Amps that are excellent in achieving the barrage which unleashes our sounds! The

"AN IRON WILL IS THE WILL TO SUCCEED!"

best equipment for a band like 'Gospel' is quality equipment, such as Orange Amps, old Marshall Amps, Mesa Boogie, Ampeg Bass rigs, & not forget Hellcunt's HABADASHERY!

When do you plan your next release? Maybe some bloody red vinyl EP?

Once we get back from our Invasion of The Damned U.S tour, we will look at entering the studio later in the year to record our 'Mini' LP! Bloody red vinyl sounds fitting as we will just be finished ripping the U.S apart, limb from limb!...the blood shall flow!

Are there any festivals in Australia where bands like yours can play?

Not really anymore, I mean there used to be 'Metal for the Brain' in Canberra, which got about 3000-4000 people there but, this is no more as public liability insurance cost too much, and I think that's why a lot festivals aren't organised anymore! Too many overheads!

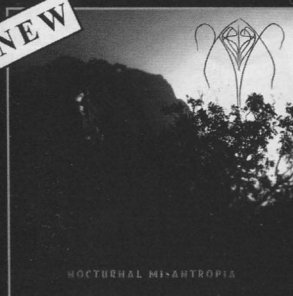
Your final words to the Metal bastards...

Cheers for you support comrade...we shall be entering the studio late this year to record our MLP. This will feature 4 tracks in the true horns ways...neck breaking Thrash assaults...none shall defy! To the US hordes: be prepared, the Aussie bastards are coming...onwards reap destruction...onwards obliteration!

NEW

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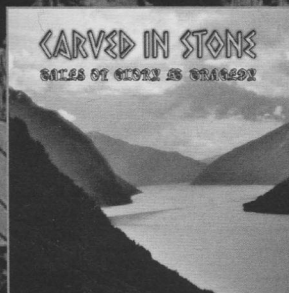
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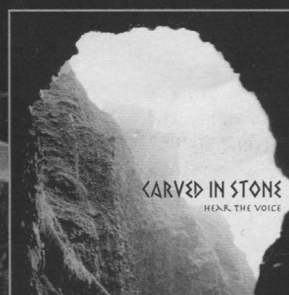
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Melodic Dark-/Black-Metal from Finland.



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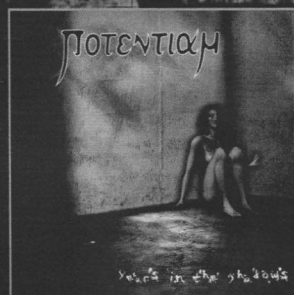
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I guess all of you have heard the story about Dracula, which our northern neighbors use very cleverly to promote tourism in Romania. Speaking about music and especially about Black Metal it could be a great source of inspiration but I can't explain to myself why there aren't so many known Romanian Black Metal bands. Of course we all know NEGURA BUNGET but only one famous band is far from enough. Here I'd like to present to your attention another cool band - SATANOCHIO which I think have the possibility to be the next Romanian Black Metal sensation. I may say they are a quite non-standard and even a freaky band, you'll be convinced in that if you read this interview.

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

I will have to admit that SATANOCHIO is not very well known in our country yet... Would you introduce your band to our Bulgarian readers - how did you start it all, etc?

Hails. Yes, we didn't have such a powerful promotion in the East, I admit. Well, the band was born back in 2004. Then we were more focused on strange ways to produce really extreme music...our first Underground releases were extremely evil I must say. In 2005 Grui Sanger joined the band, after Satan Imparat's departure. From that moment everything that meant SATANOCHIO changed...it will be changing until we find the perfect form. We released through Axa Valaha Productions our first album back in 2006, it's called "I Am Satanochio"; it shocked a lot of people by its strange way to present Metal... Last year Nimenea, the new drummer, joined the band and we produced the "Dark Visions From The Fog" DVD and also the "Vagrant Matter Heritage" EP...and now we still try to promote well our last releases, working hard also in our rehearsal cellar.

SATANOCHIO is a cool name for a band but I'm sure some people will find it a lacking serious message. Actually how did you get this name? Does it have a connection with the fictional character Pinocchio that first appeared in 1883, in "The Adventures of Pinocchio" by Carlo Collodi?

Yeah, we had a lot of problems with the name, mostly at the beginning of our career. After a while seems that it became serious for most of the people. The name is like the music. The first time you get in contact with this stuff you are shocked. After a while you begin to understand the depths of our philosophy and music and you become one of us...supposing

that you are open-minded enough. Regarding the name.... SATANOCHIO is a composition based on 2 words: Satan and Pinocchio. Satan represents the opposition and Pinocchio represents the puppet that wants to become human. So...the revolt to become human. A real human being. What SATANOCHIO really means...for me is not a joke. It's good that somebody will consider this name a joke, that means the name touched its secondary purpose: to select the auditorium.

Have you been involved in other projects before forming SATANOCHIO?

Yes, all of us were involved in other bands, played live, hanging around in our stinky Underground...I'm still respect my friends and my other artistic ideas. Now I recorded vocals for the first Nightpray album, a project of Costin Chioreanu, the best designer of Romania, in collaboration with Mr C from DODHEIMSGARD, DISCORDLESS and with other great artists. You can find the album at free download on www.asiluum.com.

Is it true that you want to keep your true identities in secret? What is the reason for this: a part of the image of the band or maybe some dark past?

Yes, that is true. Of course this is a part of the band image but at the same time is a big part of our ideology. People need to hear a band's name or to see a musician face to say how much they love or hate his work. I hate that. Why the fuck is it so important how I look? Maybe I am the greatest guitarist or the sexiest screamer, who the fuck cares? I care about our message. Just think a little bit about this... maybe tomorrow I will die, somehow, it doesn't matter. Nobody will know that I was the vocalist or the guitarist in SATANOCHIO. So?

What do I get from this? Freedom. I have no references to be influenced by, as the listeners have no references to judge me. It's only the message and music. And what the fuck is that message?! We are a mirror, we are not masked.

Hmm, you guys are real freaks; definitely SATANOCHIO isn't an ordinary band. Is it true that you have released "The Naughty Nightfall Massacre" in only one copy worldwide? If yes, whom did you do this release for? Some crazy fan of the band, maybe?

Yes, I know that I'm a freak and yes, that bloody CD was printed in just one copy worldwide and yes, it was released for our first fan I guess. There was a girl that told our manager that she is a big fan and she fuck all the time with her boyfriend playing our first release. That thing, at that moment made me really impressed, because I didn't expect something like that. So I made this 6-song release, especially for her.

How was the CD "I'm Satanochio", released by Axa Valaha Productions, accepted? From what I know the album has been very widely promoted and distributed in many countries.

Yes, our first album was received well; even the Metal music from that CD was so strange. It was a good release at its moment, I don't think that Romania had so extreme band to offer at that moment. The CD was very well promoted...what can I say more? It wasn't a big success but it introduced well the name of Satanochio in many corners of this world.

You have shot a lot of video clips; I saw 2 or 3 at least. Most of the bands can't even get one videoclip shot, how was it possible for SATANOCHIO to have so many videos? Usually the videos cost a lot of money.

I think now we had 10 official videos and we working on the 11th. We have an agreement with Costin, that is our manager from 2007, we are friends since childhood, everything is like a family business. In Evil Mafia money has no value. Hahahahaha

I guess your DVD "Dark Visions From The Fog" should be rated with XXX at least J. When did you release this DVD, what is its

content and is it still available today?

Hahahaha, thanx man! After a year after the release of "I Am Satanochio" we released, through another label the DVD called "Dark Visions From The Fog". We pressed already 2 series of this DVD and it's sold out at this moment. It contains all 9 (at that moment) official videos, a very strange video interview and a serious mind fuck movie called "Uncut Scenes"...the DVD is like a collection of memories from the first years of SATANOCHIO and it will be a pleasure to check this stuff again.

It seems that the Metal scene in Romania is very strong at the moment. Most of the Romanian bands I know play Black Metal which is easy to explain having in mind the glorious sources of inspiration in the history of your country. What are the most influential bands in Romania at present? What is your opinion about the current situation with the Romanian Metal scene?

It's true that Romanian scene is alive. Talking only about Black Metal there are very few bands and from these just 2 of them are strongly promoted outside our country: SATANOCHIO and NEGURA BUNGET. In other styles there are also bands that evolve well. It's sound incredible but we don't have influential bands at this moment. Now Romanians don't want to copy Romanians, they are interested more in what comes from outside. In 10 years from now we will have maybe influential bands.

I think that your new release "Vagrant Matter Heritage" is a great step forward for SATANOCHIO. It is much more matured and the sound is very good. The people can hear the track "Everything Dies" on the CD sampler so I guess everyone will be pleasantly surprised by the progress of the band. How do you consider this release compared to your previous works?

Thank you very much. Yes, "Vagrant Matter Heritage" was a much bigger step than "I Am Satanochio". We were better promoted, very well received by the fans and about the media.



SATANOCHIO is a composition based on 2 words: Satan and Pinocchio. Satan represents the opposition and Pinocchio represents the puppet that wants to become human

We are very glad to appear on your compilation for the first time! I have friends even in Norway that are buying this magazine so I'm sure that more people will be able to check our new sound, hehe! Musically, lyrically speaking everything is

more mature on "Vagrant Matter Heritage" compared to our past releases. But, otherwise, this EP is just a step. The next one will be higher!

It seems that SATANOCHIO is unsigned at the moment? I guess there should be some label interest but the question is what kind of label you are searching for?

We are unsigned in a way. Actually after the departure from Axa Valaha we managed everything by ourselves and with Costin Chioreanu from Twilight13media. Later, Krudd promotion helped us also very much. But, after all we cannot say that we are produced by a record label or company. These 2 affiliates are friends of us and they simply help us to produce and promote our materials. So, in a way we can be considered self produced. We received some offers from outside labels but we weren't interested in any old-school Black/Death/Satanic labels. I think this kind of label cannot promote properly our products, simply because they cannot understand properly our ideas and music. We like more the open mind entities that wants progress and evolution.

Have you played live so far? I see so many Romanian Underground bands with concerts almost every week; definitely there are a lot of crazy metalheads in Romania.

No, in almost 5 years of living we didn't take care of any gig. We are not interested in that... and here I think is the same "problem" that we have with old style Underground labels. They

really cannot understand that Underground has also special bands to offer, that really cannot show themselves at the usual metal-bar stage. THAT IS NOT THEIR WORLD! When we are able to take care of the properly location and scenography for a real artistic event like a SATANOCHIO concert, we will do it for sure. Just for the people we want, with a limited number of tickets. I say this with pleasure, because we received offers from almost all booking agencies from our country and I know that they want desperately to get our rat asses on a stage, haha!

What will follow after "Vagrant Matter Heritage" which actually seems more like a promo CD? Do you have plans for a new album?

"Vagrant Matter Heritage" represents the first step in the great exploration of our ship. After the release of this EP we started the work on the next album. We learned a lot of useful things recording this EP and we become stronger together as a band. The new full album is in work and it will be gorgeous. This time it is about us...and about our story. Nothing from outside!

What are you sick of lately?

People, generally speaking. I hate to see them living like animals, I cannot live with this thought in my mind, it kills me. Deep inside my heart I love humans, that's why I did this band...to show the animals how is to be human and how is to care. You don't need religion or dogmas for that, it's enough to open your heart...still you have it.

Thanks a lot for your answers. You can conclude the interview...

Thank you very much for this opportunity, best regards to the Bulgarian and worldwide wise metalheads! Don't let the flow take you!



Greetings Michal, I hope I have found you in good condition. Two weeks ago you told me some good and some bad news about CEREBRAL TURBULENCY. Could you reveal them to our readers?!

Hi Chavdar. Actually you found me in a strange condition as I run between home and the recording studio in the last few days as we finish the work on our new / last album. I just mentioned first main news about C.T. team. Another news is that we decided to split up the band after this album. Exact date has been determined on 28th of November 2008 because it is the date when we found C.T. – 15 years ago. So it will be our 15th anniversary gig connected with new CD baptism ceremonial.

I guess after you stop CEREBRAL TURBULENCY you will start working on a new project. Do you have some ideas, views about the band already?

As for me personally I would like to start some new band, probably some kind of powerful mixture of Grind, Metal, balcanic motives + hard core.... We will see later, I don't care at the moment... Mainly, depends to get some cool guys to the band being fine people as well as musicians... it's not so easy combination. ☺

What is the legacy of CEREBRAL TURBULENCY? What are the most significant moments in the 15-year history of the band?

Uffff, what the question??? ☺ We are not METALLICA or ROLLING STONES. We are one of hundreds of Underground Metal bands. Most of the time during these 15 years we enjoyed all around – playing gigs, releasing CD albums, touring over Europe, meeting various people, making funny parties, experienced many stories and situations, many memories together. Some legacy of C.T.? I don't know – it is rather a question for people who have liked what we created, how we played etc....

Do you think it is possible to reform the band some day?

Never say never... but to be sincere there is not any reason, need or taste to do it. If some of C.T. would like such ideas – I perhaps would not protest but I myself would not participate on some reunion and I doubt that some of ex-members would plan some comeback...

Your first albums were mostly gore grind but later you changed the style. Who was the initiator of this change? I still consider "Forces Closing Down" as my favorite CEREBRAL TURBULENCY record.

You know, there turned many people in C.T. during the years and almost each album was composed/recorded with different line-up. So it is evident reason why we changed the style and you also are more developed when you are getting older + want to try some new processes by composing the songs. There were more various reasons and aspects.

MALIGNANT TUMOUR also did a similar change in their style. I'm curious to know how does a musician like you feel the necessity to change the style? What was the reason to abandon the initial direction of the band?

It's very easy – there are the bands which still like to play the same type of style since the beginning till the end of their existence on one side and there are also bands which are bored to play the same music and rather try to use some new combinations, influences and progress. I don't mean experimental or independent music; I talk about development in your own Grind Core, Death Metal, Hard Core or

Doom Metal band. Just to keep your face but with different make-ups.

Have you also changed your views? It is normal to pass through different phases and to change your views about the surrounding world for 15 years. I guess this has reflected in your lyrics, right?

Of course, but it's definitely natural phenomenon for human being as itself – you see the world and life differently when you are 15 years old and when you are 30...and it logically must appear in the "art" you create and produce over the years.

I'd like to ask you something from your experience. What is the most important thing for a band to make really good and memorable live shows?

I think it is very very dependent on audience which is coming to a gig. For me there were the best gigs when people before stage were pogoing, enjoying, applauding – simply sharp riding. Generally it was in smaller pubs – with not too high stage – people very close to the band. Those performances were always very savage and impressing.

Which is the best live band that you have played with? Also could you remember any famous band that has totally disappointed you?

Famous disappointment was SOULFLY last year on Brutal Assault. Very strong was IN FLAMES live in Prague two years ago and as for smaller bands I like DISFIGURED CORPSE on the stage or NEEDFUL THINGS, SQUASH BOWELS, PSYCHOTIC DESPAIR, JIG-AI, G.O.R.E, LENG TCHE, ROTTEN SOUND, SICK OF IT ALL, EXCREMENTORY GRINDFUCKERS (the best band ever!!!).

How is Khaaranus Productions going? What did you release lately and have you signed with some new bands?

Actually we work on the new web site and prepare for releasing this new C.T. album plus paralelly for new SPASM CD. Short time ago we printed 9 kinds of T-shirts + 4 long sleeves as JIG-AI, SPASM, CEREBRAL, RUBUFASO MUKUFO, G.O.R.E, LAST DAYS OF HUMANITY, INHUME, ALIENATION MENTAL, CARNAL DIAFRAGMA, CRITICAL MADNESS. All in unusual colors and civilian decent motives – those who would be interested in it – ask for previews. As for CD releases – last two titles are G.O.R.E "Never Sober Level" and split RUBUFASO MUKUFO

(ex members of C.T.) / OPITZ (ex-Contrastic).

What is your opinion about the current situation of the Czech Underground scene? I see you have a lot of cool bands, a lot of tours and festivals and, most importantly, the leading Czech bands keep the Underground spirit.

It's really interesting affair that Czech scene is so active. Really many various bands, active labels + distros, webzines, not too many magazines but enough for small Czech country, many many local gigs almost each weekend, quite famous festivals and many people who like Metal, Grind, HC, etc music and maybe this is the reason why the scene works so well – because there is many people who like this kind of music. But maybe everything is completely somewhere else than I think.... ☺

OK, let's stop here. If you want to add something - here is the place...

Thank you man for space in final phase of our band. People, watch for our new/last album called "SEGREGACE K 0" (segregation to zero). Buy CDs, download MP3, go on gigs, drink it, eat it, love it, grind it!!! Thank you, good night!!! ☺

Well, this interview is a little different. Why? Because it is one of the last interviews for the Czechs CEREBRAL TURBULENCY. After 15 years, numerous releases, tours and parties the guys decided to finish the band. Of course not before the releasing of their last album... I found Michal between his home and the studio to talk about the last days of CEREBRAL TURBULENCY.

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BATTLEGOD PRODUCTIONS

This is something new for Brutallica. Probably 99% of the interviews so far have been made with different bands but the Underground scene isn't only bands. What about the labels behind them? Is it hard to make a label? What is the secret to make a successful but also respected label? All these questions made me do something like a "label portrait" – something to show us how the Underground labels work nowadays, what are their hardships, their fight. The first label that I'll present to you is the Australian Battlegod Productions – a label that surprise with its progress during the last two years.

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

Well, this is our first interview with a label owner, as far as I can remember. This is something new for Brutallica and we chose Battlegod Productions to start with. What must people know about the label and how did you enter the music business?

It was 1994 from the release of the debut BALTAK CD when I decided to do a label. During that period I was distributed by an Australian label called Warhead Records who after a few years had folded about 1999. I was also doing trades in those early years. Had a few advertisements as well but more in Underground fanzines than major magazines. It was a hard battle and it's still hard.

What was the first release of Battlegod and how was it accepted by the fans?

BALTAK "Macedonian Darkness And Evil" CD was the first release on Battlegod Productions. Also being the leading person, songwriter etc... of the band. It was really amazing the feedback I got in those days. A lot of labels took BALTAK on and ordered good quantity of discs. It was really unexpected from this album.

Every business needs an investment, right.

Did you need loans or you have started Battlegod with your own money?

Battlegod Productions has always been with my money. I have a night job that I work and also with sales combined I pay for stuff. It's not easy work trying to make ends meet with the prices of European magazines it's pretty expensive with the exchange rate. The Australian dollar is pretty shit when it comes to the Euro. I don't believe in loans with interest rates rising these days it would had

been suicide for me to do something stupid like that. I work hard for Battlegod Productions, doing it for so long now and it feels like it's part of me. From 1994 till now I believe I have gone a long way in this industry, back then I could not afford all this stuff, advert etc... All I did back then was small mail order catalogues with a few CD's as trade. Worked hard to get to this point and I will continue to do so until the day I die.

How many releases have you put on the market so far and which of them are the most successful? I don't mean the selling points only.

There are 17 releases on Battlegod Productions and a DVD. Out of these releases I would have to say throughout the years BALTAK has gone really, really well all 4 albums and the latest album went the best out of all of them. Don't know maybe because it was produced in Germany with a German drummer. German band SAXORIOR are another band with this being their 2nd album on Battlegod Productions, their new release "Völkerschlacht" started selling well and as each month progresses the sales are better. PEGAZUS is another good seller for me. Some releases sell better in other countries not all in the same place. BUIO OMEGA, which is my side project with the Italian band MORTIFIER. This is going ok as well with our 3rd album, and a fourth album in the making. Also with a variety on Battlegod Productions with Black, Death, Heavy Metal and also Doom there are different genres and I promote in different countries. All my albums sell pretty well but also all bands

sell differently to other bands.

I saw a full-colour back cover advertisement of Battlegod in one of the last Terrorizer Magazine issues. I was quite shocked to see it because we all know the rates of Terrorizer are high enough to be possible for labels like Nuclear Blast/Century Media. I guess this is a very courageous investment for you?

Well I have been dealing with Terrorizer magazine now for the last 2 to 3 years. I started first with half page adverts and maybe a track on their compilation disc. Now I have gotten to the point of doing full page adverts and also on the back page as well with 2 songs on their compilation. Sales are going well and also once again my job I manage to pull through the hard times. One way or another all is well in the end. Also doing stuff in magazines like Metal Maniacs + SOD in the States, German Legacy, Rock Hard, French Magazine Metallian, Italian Metal Hammer + Grind Zone and a few others. All of my adverts in these different countries are translated to fit in with the language barrier. The music industry is an expensive industry and things must be done if you're a serious label.

You have inked a deal for the distribution of your releases in Germany with Twilight Vertieb. Could you tell more about this deal and are you satisfied by the results so far?

Yeah it's good that I have a good distributor like Twilight who distribute my CD's in Germany. Well actually the contract it's world distribution except Australia and the USA which are in my control. Sales in Germany or in Europe even UK have been going well these days as long as I keep the promotion alive with advertisements radio plays etc... The CD's are available in all main shops in Germany. Also it's hard there are too many bands out in the scene no matter what genre they are. It makes it a lot more difficult for new bands these days.

What do you think are the most important things to make an Underground record label a successful one? Good relations with the bands, maybe?

- Be honest to your bands
- No Rip Offs
- Pay for the adverts & compilation discs so you don't get a bad name
- Always show proof of sales to your bands
- Communication with your bands is very important
- The most important thing is to get a distributor. Trades do not last forever and it's limited to what you can really do.
- Be consistent with advertisements so the name of the bands or the label does not fade away.
- Send at least 500 promo disc's to all leading media magazines, radio stations etc... More than 500 discs would be better if you can get the contacts.

What is the place of Battlegod Productions in Australia? Do you own a store, mailorder? How do you spread your stuff in Australia?

At the moment I don't own a store, I run the entire network from my home at my own speed, me being my own boss is the best. Then I know what is being done.

What do you think about the prices of the CDs? Do you think they are fair? Normally the wholesale prices are about 6-7 euro but in most of the shops the final prices are double? Thus the store owners make more profit than the label and the artists?!

Depending if you have a distributor, the distributor get the CD's at a wholesale price then they sell the CD's at their wholesale to shops etc... That's why disc's can be at least 12 to 15 Euro at the end of the transaction. But

also when you really think about the theory the label also has to re-coop for the money spent on adverts, tracks on comps, postage of big boxes of CD overseas and also the promo sending. All this adds up very quickly and if you don't have the sales then simply you cannot go on. People are taking me a lot more serious after they have seen adverts in Terrorizer, Metal Maniacs etc... constant promotion in different places.

Do you support any local Metal festivals and live events?

I have done a few live shows throughout the years with bands like PEGAZUS, DARK ORDER, TEMTRIS. I would love to be involved in Metal festivals here in Australia or better still Sydney but people seem to cut me of the scene and never give me credit for my actions so that's also another reason why I focus my stuff, the label outside Australian borders. Also my sales are way better outside Australian borders. I had a festival about 2 years ago, that was a benefit gig for our Metal brother Skott who is a very sick man and this gig was to raise money for him to help him out. Also I did a METALLICA cover song of "Ride The Lightning" with DARK ORDER. Wow that was an awesome cover song. It was one of Skott's best METALLICA tracks so we all decided to cover it.

What do you think about the idea of the bigger record labels to sell music in electronic formats: mp3's, flac's, etc? I actually cannot see any true music collector to buy mp3s! But I see that my daughter doesn't really care.

I am not a fan of mp3's. I listen to mp3's in my car but that's because I don't want to carry 50 CD's and over. Like this it's more compact for

"I am not a fan of MP3's. I listen to MP3's in my car but that's because I don't want to carry 50 CD's and over. I rather prefer the original disc with booklet. I love my LP's and also original discs. MP3's are a low format it's a data file. You cannot compare data files to normal audio wave files"

the listening pleasure while driving. I rather prefer the original disc with booklet etc... I love my LP's and also original disc's. Copies are not right in my opinion, not only the label suffers, so does the band. That means their will be less sales of their CD's. MP3's are a low format it's a data file. You cannot compare data files to normal audio wave files.

Internet becomes a real threat for the small bands, because of the numerous download portals where everyone can get a lot of albums for free. For bands like METALLICA this isn't a problem but for the bands that sell about 1000-2000 records paying the production and other costs could be a very big one.

I agree this is a problem for the Underground. It takes one person to put songs on his file sharing program then it's all out. It's a very common thing these days but also I know for a fact people have downloaded BALTAK track but ended up buying the discs after a while. I think that's ok if you have intention of buying the disc when you see it around in a shop or catalogue or what ever. In a lot of ways it's also a good promotion for the band. Because of a few people downloading your tracks you could also have more people at your shows who could end up buying shirts (merchandise). So in a lot of way you loose but also win in the end if you play your cards right.

What other bands you have signed with for future releases? How do you choose the

bands? I guess you receive a lot of demos?!

I get a lot of promo discs but there are so many bands I can sign & release. I like to focus on my other titles recent & also some of the older stuff. I have just signed a few months ago the Serbian Black Metal legends MAY RESULT with a full length album + re-issues of earlier material on digipack with bonus tracks etc... These days when I release new albums I normally do a few releases at the same time so along with the MAY RESULT there will be another one or two releases at the same time. See how it all goes waiting on new albums from other Battlegod bands like DARK ORDER, BUIO OMEGA & HARKONIN.

What are your main distributors now?

Where can the fans get your releases?

The Battlegod releases are distributed by the following:

Germany – Twilight | Austria – NSM | Swiss – NonStopMusic | France – Season of Mist | BeNeLux – Bertus | Norway – VME | Italy – Masterpiece, Andromeda | Greece – Soundforge | Japan – Worldchaos | PHD – UK, H'art Music | Australia & New Zeland – Modern Invasion | CM Distro – USA | Bertus & PHD – rest of the world.

To end of the interview I would like to say hails and thank you for the space you have given me in this mighty magazine. Your support is very much appreciated, if I ever go to Macedonia again I will pop in to Bulgaria and we shall meet for a few beers and chat.



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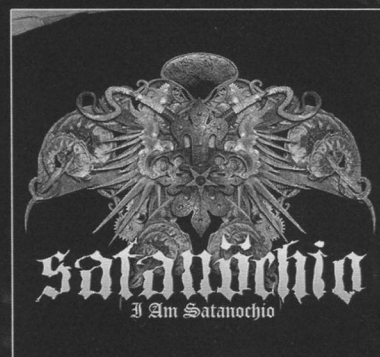
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It is not a secret that the nowadays Death Metal scene is overcrowded with so many known and unknown bands. Most of them are using some kind of obscure image to attract your attention. But of course there are bands that use mostly their music, when they are sure they have the potential to offer us something really qualitative and notable. The US Death Metal band WARFACE is such a band, very talented and cool guys and...a female guitar player. Don't tell me "ohh, a girl in a Death Metal band, how can this work?" Believe me it really works because Laura Christine can kick your ass with her fierce but technical playing. She's also a very kind and intelligent woman, the proof of this is the following interview

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

What do you think people must know about WARFACE?

WARFACE is a driven uncompromising extreme band comprised of three musically obsessed individuals: Dave Smith (Vocals & Bass), Laura Christine (Guitars), & Tyson Jupin (Drums). Forming in early 2001 in San Diego, California, WARFACE lives and breathes for delivering unrelenting, catchy, aggressive, technical Death Metal packed with memorable hooks and brutality around every corner.

What is the feeling to have a Death Metal band? I think this style is without any restrictions and you can express all your thoughts and senses in the way you want. I do not think this can be possible if you play pop or country music, for example.

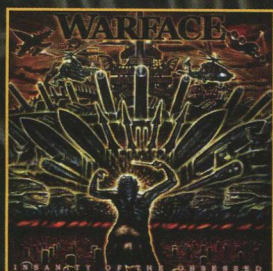
We absolutely agree with you on that statement. For us there is no other genre of music on the planet that is as powerful and moving as Death Metal. Death Metal is the most intense, exciting, challenging genre of music there is in our opinion. It's also a great way to take out your aggressions rather than smashing your neighbor's head in with a shovel!!

After I heard your last album "Insanity Of The Obsessed" I was impressed by your pursuit to escape from the monotony of the style by a lot of tempo changes and skillful technical improvisation. I haven't listened to your previous works so I'd like to ask you if this is some kind of progression of the band or this is your style since the start?

It was definitely a natural and intentional progression of the band. We had more time with this last release to better and more accurately express our beliefs and harness our emotion into the writing of the music (which makes for a more powerful and memorable record I believe).

I guess many people will be shocked to know that WARFACE has such a good....female guitar player. It is very rare to see this especially in a Death Metal band, actually I know no more than 4-5 bands with female guitar players. What do you think is the reason for this?

Thank you! It's hard to say exactly. My sense is that it stems back to the same reason Metal audiences have been traditionally more male dominated. For me it has been a natural progression that came very naturally. I started playing Thrash Metal in the early 90's and gradually began listening to and playing heavier music.



I was completely drawn in and summoned by the awesome power of Death Metal music and have not looked back since.

Is it true that WARFACE have some special relations with BC RICH and KxK guitars?

Yes, I have a custom signature series of Warface V guitars available through KxK Guitars. KxK are devoted and focused

on producing high quality instruments that deliver phenomenal tone and playability/feel. And I can honestly say that KxK guitars are the absolute best guitars I have ever played. My only relation with BC Rich is that I used to play their guitars (previous to KxK) and had been featured in their catalog at one time.

What inspires you to create music? Especially vigorous Death Metal?!

Life itself and the insane world that we live in. War, Death, Injustice, and so on... abuse of power, corruption in politics and pretty much anything that evokes powerful emotions.

Why did you choose such a name for your band? My father fought during World War II and from his stories I know war is the ugliest and most repulsive thing that humanity knows. Or maybe this is your aim, to show the real face of war?!

Absolutely, it is an overbearing gruesome aspect of humanity that we have been unable to rise above.

History shows us that most of the biggest wars have been started by insane people: Napoleon, Hitler...G. W. Bush. The title of your album is "Insanity Of The Obsessed," maybe there is some connection with the above-written?!

There is definitely some connection there while simultaneously and symbolically touching on our own individual obsessions and personally destructive behaviors that emanate a little insanity on a personal level.

Your president G. W Bush managed to make something that the whole cold war propaganda didn't - to make the biggest anti-American oppositions all over the world. But most of the people don't know about the havoc he made inside your country?! What is your opinion of the US policy?

We definitely need better policies and we greatly need

to repair the current damage.

Who will be the next president of the USA and what policy he should lead?

Well right now the front runners are Senators B. Obama, H. Clinton & J. McCain. So it's pretty safe to say at this point that it will be one of those. Ideally one should lead policies of sound mind and excellent judgment and foresight.

Back to the music of WARFACE. You have a notable technical potential. I guess there is a lot of practice and elaboration behind it all. According to you, how many years a musician needs to perfect himself and do whatever he wants with his instrument?

I think that the amount of time that it takes is different for everyone. For me it took well over 10 years to develop and get ideally where I wanted to be on my instrument. However, I believe there is no end to perfecting your craft and I am always striving to improve musically.

How many times have you played live so far and what are your peaks in this aspect?

I've been playing live for over ten years... seven of those have been with WARFACE. Some peaks would be when we play with other bands that we are big fans of or bands that are good friends of ours. The absolute peak are the times when we play for a packed venue with an audience of Metalheads that are just as passionate and psyched out of their minds for the music as we are.

Tell us about your contract with Deathquake Records. Will your next album be released by this label as well?

We have fulfilled our contractual obligation with Deathquake. We have the option to do our next album with DQ and that is most likely what we will do.

How much does the whole production of "Insanity Of The Obsessed" cost?

It was expensive and we were extremely fortunate to have Deathquake pick up the tab.

Is it possible for a Death Metal band in USA to find a sponsor?

Absolutely. We have been lucky enough to receive sponsors and gear from a number of companies including AXIS, GHS Strings, Coffin Case, Dunlop, KXK Guitars etc. and we are extremely grateful.

What is your experience before WARFACE? Tell us something about the band DAMNATION and Tyson Jupin's work with VILE?

From the early 90's until 2000 I had played in a number of bands searching for that right fit/formula. I always played in bands that had two guitar players prior to WARFACE. DAMNATION was the first time Dave and I played together in a band and realized we had awesome chemistry musically. He and I were not in that band for very long and later branched off and formed WARFACE. Tyson is an incredible drummer! We love his style. He has played with VILE for a number of years and recorded on their last two albums 'Depopulate' (2004) and 'New Age of Chaos' (2006). Two amazing albums in my opinion.

What is next for WARFACE?

Weapons manufacturing. A new shoe and clothing line... no I'm only kidding!! Invade and tour everywhere and get a new album out!! HAIL BRUTALICA!! YOU FUCKING RULE!!

"Death Metal is the most intense, exciting, challenging genre of music. It's also a great way to take out your aggressions rather than smashing your neighbor's head in with a shovel"





FOR RUIN

The Irish Underground scene isn't so huge but always has been a place for a lot of fresh and promising bands. FOR RUIN probably isn't the best band on this planet but I was impressed by their quick progress. For just a year they managed to turn from a one-man project into a band that played on one stage with monsters like NAPALM DEATH, MASSACRE, DESTRUCTION, etc. They should be really good and talented to have such a credit. Having in mind all this I decide to get in touch with the main guy in the band – John Murphy to find out something more about FOR RUIN. Be sure also to check their song "Towards An End" featured in the CD Sampler. Definitely you'll hear more frequently about this band in the near future!

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

John, can you present your band to the readers of Brutallica?

Sure, thanks for the interview. The band is up and running since 2003/4 or so, and released 3 demos during '04-'06 which gained some label interest, culminating in a deal with Sentinel in early 2007. We've had a couple of line-up changes as is often the case in the early days of a band and finally I think we have a strong solid line-up. We released our debut album "December" in October '07, and it has done well for us – it's well distributed now (including digitally) and while the production on it could be better for a variety of reasons, it's a good representation of the early sound of the band – all albums are a picture of where a band is at a particular time, and for us it is still early days – but that's the first proper documentation of the band. We've played with some of the biggest names in extreme music at this stage and are playing London in May before returning to finish writing the second album.

How can you describe the musical direction of the band? I feel some influence from Chuck Schuldiner's music.

The band plays a style that incorporates elements of many types of extreme music, but always with a strong emphasis on harmony and melody – some have mentioned that they hear traces of ROTTING CHRIST, DEATH, AMORPHIS and KATATONIA in our music. I believe that the band has its own style and people find it useful to use comparisons with other bands when describing a band so people can get some idea of the sound. I have written all of the music for the band so far and I certainly listen to all of those bands and more. I was (and still am!) a big fan of Chuck's playing and writing in both the musical and lyrical terms.

I heard your album "December" several times and I'm a bit frustrated by the production. It is obvious that the band has a very good potential but the mastering and especially the mixing of the album is mediocre in my opinion. Where did you record the album and does the production satisfy you?

The album was recorded by myself at home for the most part. The drums were recorded at a separate location, but as is normal for a first album, we were on a tight budget. Personally I was under quite a bit of pressure during the recording (impending fatherhood!) and perhaps I was distracted so the sound isn't as good as it should be. The songs on the album are strong I think, and they (for the most part) are the songs we have been playing as a band since the first line-up came together. For the next album the recording will be properly done, we have already been in discussions with a studio for the second album so we will see how that works out. On the first album I recorded/mixed/mastered it, as well as playing/screaming on it and working on the layout/artwork and it was too much I think...you live and learn! Next time we will get all the artwork done externally and my role will be confined to that of musician and co-producer so I'm looking forward to that. For now though I think I can say that the debut album will reappear in better format in the future...stay tuned! Keen ears may have noticed that one of the songs on our MySpace sounds different to the album version.... A major UK audio/recording magazine will probably feature the band soon too (not a metal publication)...

I'd recommend you the following idea. For the next album, book some good studio in Poland. Most of the studios over there are even cheaper than those in UK and Ireland but the engineers in these studios are real monsters and they can give you the sound that you deserve. I hope my proposal isn't bad?!

Yes, it's an idea that had occurred to us some time ago, but to relocate to record at the moment is difficult for us as we all have other commitments at the moment. I think we have an excellent solution for the recording of the next album; we have nothing set in stone yet – but it's looking good! I have heard many excellent productions coming out of the Polish studios and it might be something to look at down the line...

Could you say some words about "Live at Winterfest" DVD? Is it still available?

This is a multi-camera short-run DVD (a few copies are still available but it's almost sold out) that we released of a local show that we played at the end of 2006 in our home city of Cork. It's a good representation of us at that time, still finding our feet. We're a much better live band at this stage and have risen to greater heights. We have also filmed a show from the same festival in 2007 on multiple cameras and may use it some time. Clips from both of those shows are on YouTube



somewhere... there's also a few clips of our show from last January in Dublin with PRIMORDIAL knocking around on YouTube.

Would you agree with me that PRIMORDIAL is the best Irish band at the moment? You have

played with them so what are your impressions of them?

We have played with PRIMORDIAL 3 or 4 times now, and they are good guys; I know a few of them fairly well at this stage; Alan painted our backdrop for example. Their newest album has done great things for their profile internationally. We were very lucky recently as at the end of '07 we played as main support to them on their first Irish show for the new album, here in Cork. It was a great night (and the first gig for our new bass player Pete), and we and they played well. That was December 15th '07 I think and was the show we filmed as mentioned above. They had asked us to be the main support act, again at their album launch show in the Button Factory in Dublin on Jan 19th. Now *that* was a special show. It was a packed (700) venue, with a huge international audience over to see the band. It's a beautiful venue and we played probably our best show to date (although my amp died at one point!). There's a review of it on metalireland.com somewhere. Another great Irish (doom) band GRAVEYARD DIRT opened the show and some have said that it was the cream of the Irish scene playing that night which is a nice compliment. Everyone agrees it was a landmark show for Irish Metal, one that people will always remember being at – and we were proud to be the main support act. That's testimony to hard work on our behalf and we were honoured to be asked to play that night. It was the last show for our old drummer Barry so he went out on a high note. It shows the fast growth of FOR RUIN; going from a one-man project to playing with the currently most respected Irish Metal band in the space of 3 or 4 years, so it was an important show for us, particularly given the international audience and press in attendance.

You have also played on stage with bands like NAPALM DEATH, DECAPITATED, MASSACRE, ATROCITY, DESTRUCTION, EXTREME NOISE TERROR. I guess this helped you to see what the level of FOR RUIN is in comparison to these established bands?!

Yes for sure. A lot of "big" bands now regularly frequent Ireland (this was not always the case!) and it has really helped the local scene and showed the local bands what standard they should aspire to. You learn something from each show. Local bands often get a chance to play with these travelling bands and it creates a great focus for the band. This year is a quiet year so far from us, as we are rehearsing & writing new material and hoping to play a few international shows.

Last month your original drummer Steve O'Connell has returned in the band. I guess this is very good news for you?! Can you make a comparison between Steve and Barry English? Yes I (personally) was delighted to welcome Steve back to the band. When I returned from Spain to set up the initial line-up of the band at the end of



„You won't find any satanic bullshit in our lyrics – some of the them are on quite abstract topics really“

2004, I met Steve and he fitted the style of the band like a glove. He played with us for about a year, helping the band to cut its teeth really, along with the original second guitarist and bass player. He's a young guy and decided to travel for a year and I was sad to

see him go when he left, but we kept in contact. Barry replaced him, and Barry is one of the best drummers in the country – he stayed for over a year and then decided to move on to other things after the Button Factory show and we wished him well. There was only 1 guy I wanted behind the kit and that was Steve. He hadn't played for over a year but was keen to get back drumming and gigging and that's what we're doing now. It's great to have a guy that was there from day 1 back in the fold! Pete joined on bass in Nov '07 and is a great guy and player, one of the best around. Drew is on guitar since Oct '06 and is just the best, so it's a really good time now for us.

I have often compared the playing Bar and Steve in my head – Barry's hands are quicker, and Steve's feet are quicker ha ha... they are both *natural* drummers though, and that's a rare thing. This band has been very fortunate as drummers are hard to find – but great drummers, like these two guys, are even rarer. Overall, Steve is more of a Black Metal styled drummer and I think that suits us better.

You are scheduled to play your first UK show in May, right? I guess this is a very important moment for the band to show its potential outside of Ireland. Do you have other shows planned for this year?

Yes, we play with SKYFORGER and a bunch of other bands in May (17th) in the Camden Underworld in London. I've seen lots of shows there over the years so am looking forward to playing it as our first show outside Ireland! We have played Belfast a few times but that doesn't count as it's still on the island ha ha... it should be a good day though, it's an all-day event, we are about half way up the bill. It's our only show booked for now, as we would like to concentrate on gelling the new band and writing and rehearsing the new material for the second album.

How is your collaboration with Sentinel Records? I have very good impressions from the Irish labels. I'm a printer and we have good business with most of them - they are very kind people. It seems that Sentinel really believe in your band?!

We have a great working relationship with Brian at Sentinel. It's a small, "personalized" label (and store) based in Dublin. Before I put the 1st line-up together I had offers from 2 European labels, but I decided to keep it local and it certainly makes things better. We will do our second album for Sentinel too, hopefully later this year. We are growing together – the distribution channels are up and running now for us and things are going well. I'm in contact with the label on a daily basis so it means there is no bureaucracy to deal with! **What are the topics in the lyrics of FOR RUIN? What are your sources of inspiration? We all live in a weird world and all I see on the news is political and religious confrontation.**

Politics and religion are the *last* things that interest me from a lyrical perspective. I have always written observational lyrics, inspired by surroundings, experiences and interpretations. You won't find any satanic bullshit in our lyrics – some of the lyrics are on quite abstract topics really.

We have printed several issues of the leading Irish Metal magazine – Metalworks. But the guys have difficulties to keep it alive. Maybe all Irish Metal bands/labels should do more to support this mighty magazine?!

Ha ha in fact I am writing for this magazine now, I have submitted several reviews and interviews for the next issue – it should be coming out during the next couple of months! It's a good magazine though and it would be nice if we could have it out more regularly. I think a lot more people in the Underground are contributing to the magazine this time around so hopefully that will be a boost for it.

Tell me about the merchandise of FOR RUIN, what do you offer on your gigs?

We always have shirts, albums and demos for sale at our shows. We have had some copies of the DVD available too, as well as some other stuff like stickers, badges etc. We had a very good take-up on the recent batch of full colour album-art shirts that we got (long sleeve, girlies, T's) so we will do that again next time. Shirt printing is an expensive business though, especially for multi-colour prints; next time the album cover will have 2 colours on it to keep the merch cheap ha!

What are you occupied with apart from the band? What are your hobbies, manias, interests? What is the most popular beer in Ireland? I already know for the whiskey ☺

Each of the 4 of us works in various places so we are always busy. Pete plays in another local band, and I play in another non-Metal pup-group too for fun. I'm mostly taken up with my new family recently however – I have a 9 month old son who's a handful ☺ but our lives are going to calm again soon after the summer (and my wedding) and the FOR RUIN machine will get properly into gear again then! All of us do different things outside of work and the band, I like to fish when I get the time, the guys between them are into hill walking, gaming and drinking ha! In our city Murphy's is the most popular drink (it's a stout like Guinness). In Ireland I guess that Guinness or Heineken are the most popular, but there's a lot of foreign beers here now too which is great! As for whiskey – Bushmills is the only one!

OK, I hope we gave an idea of FOR RUINS to our readers. What are your concluding words?

Well thanks for the interview! After the summer you can expect to hear a lot more from us, as we hope to record the second album in the autumn. So far 6 songs are written and we are rehearsing them – two of the songs are about a year or two old and have been played live before, but the others are brand new, unheard songs. Second albums are always interesting I think – the 1st album is usually easy as you have all these songs around since the band started – but the second time around you need to focus and it shows the progression, direction and skills of the band. This time around the production will be great and as for the sound – I think it will be a faster album, still with plenty of harmony and melody that we are known for, but with a little more speed and aggression I think. The new songs are certainly sounding that way so we can't wait to play them live. We are also talking with a booking agent and tour-promoter to take the band to Europe once the second CD is out so that's high on our agenda – we no longer need to play Ireland regularly as we've got the name out here and are known.

Check us out at www.forruiin.com www.myspace.com/forruiinband and we'll hopefully see you in '09!

Cheers!
John & For Ruin



SPEARHEAD is one of the most alluring bands of Invictus Records stand. Their new album "Decrowning The Irenarch" is one of the strongest releases for 2007; the progress of the UK Death / Black metallers is more than obvious and if we add the powerful production of Hertz Studio it's clear for me that this album deserves our attention. I hope this interview with Barghest (Bass, vocals) will help you to find out more about the band's music and views.

CHAVDARTZACHKOV

Your new album "Decrowning the Irenarch", that I received from Invictus, attracted my attention. I have a good flair for quality bands so I decided to present SPEARHEAD to our audience. So, who are SPEARHEAD and what are your achievements so far?

SPEARHEAD was founded in late 2003. After some initial line-up changes the first full-length "Deathless Steel Command" was recorded in Summer 2005, later released in September 2006 on Invictus Productions. Invictus (rhythm guitars) replaced Hemah in late 2006, prior to the long writing process for the second full-length "Decrowning the Irenarch" (released December 2007, again on Invictus Productions). Over the past couple of years we've played alongside some quite significant bands, in Germany, Ireland as well as the UK.

I heard "Decrowning The Irenarch" about 20 times and I'm sure I could do it 20 more without being bored. You guys have managed to make a truly fascinating album. I want to know more about this record. Actually I want to know everything about it!

That's good, because we probably had to listen to the album about 40 times during the mixing! We started writing tracks for it over two years ago. In October 2006 we recorded and released a promo CD ("When the Pillars Fall") of around 5 tracks as a precursor to the full-length, re-working and improving most of those tracks before the final recording in June/July 2007, as well as updating

the lyrics. The other tracks on "Decrowning..." were written between around the time of the "When the Pillars Fall" CD, and about two or three months before recording.

What was your experience before the creation of SPEARHEAD? I mean, have you participated in other projects?

I was a live session bassist with ARCHAICUS (atmospheric medieval Black Metal) prior to SPEARHEAD, with Vortigern and Nephilim (before they joined SPEARHEAD). However, before SPEARHEAD I had no recording experience, no.

What do you think is a better label for your music: Death/Black or Black/Death? By the way, you did a very good alloy between these styles!

It's certainly more Death than Black in my opinion, but there are a few definite touches of Black as well as Thrash of course. I guess it's up to you what you want to call it.

Why did you record the album in Poland with the engineer of VADER and DECAPITATED? Does it mean that there are no good studios for your music and requirements in the UK?

Quite simply Hertz Studio was more economically viable than most UK studios, whilst offering the state of the art standard of production we were looking for. Wojciech and Slawek (the studio engineers) were good guys to work with and we were of course aware of their work with the VADER and DECAPITATED recordings.

I feel a great influence from DEICIDE, especially in

the drums. Do you agree? I know it is impossible nowadays to escape from the influence of other bands. How do you see your influences?

Arguably there is a similarity to DEICIDE in the drums, but it never crossed my mind to be honest. As far as I'm concerned, the highlight of DEICIDE's career is the debut self-titled album, and the pre-DEICIDE Amon demos, and maybe some of the latter DEICIDE efforts.

The lyrical themes in your music are the metaphysics and philosophy of war. Could you explain it? Does it have a connection with (anti)religion?

"Decrowning..." is concerned with the fundamental truth that all past ancient civilisations in Eurasia were ordered into a tripartite system, with the warrior class lying central to the priestly class (above) and the cultivator/artisan class (below). As paradoxical as it may sound, not only was war a way of attaining pure mental and transhuman serenity, it was also a way of maintaining a healthy and ordered civilisation. This form of order lasted, albeit in an artificial formation, through to the feudal middle ages, only occasionally appearing in residual 'pockets' thereafter. The foci behind "Decrowning..." is that Traditional hierarchisation, with the warrior element lying at the centre is the only way to maintain a healthy civilisation; and that perhaps more importantly at least the individual can be made physically and intellectually healthy through the purest and noblest form of action that is war, so long as they fight with the traditional model as their foundation. The track "Thus Always to Tyrants" is anti-religious. I'm not anti-religious in so far as I don't see anything beyond corporeal existence, only that the Christian tradition and its historical compeers offer no system of honour to live by.

Speaking about the philosophy of war; how do see the so-called war on terrorism? What would you say about the double standards?

As I've said in other interviews such topics have little

"The degeneration of man is nothing new, and it is nothing to be overly concerned about either, as this is just the way it is and always has been."

importance for me. They are a subject I am neither informed on, nor interested in. What I will say is that it is a war between conflicting ideologies and cultures, and that neither one is more honourable than the other. Hopefully the East and West will wipe each other's degenerated cultures in a grand conflagration. But that may just be wishful thinking.

What is the live activity of SPEARHEAD? Could you agree with me that nowadays a band without live activity is doomed to failure?

We are a strong live band, last year playing festivals in Germany and Ireland. I disagree on your last point. It depends what you mean by failure. It's sometimes true, that to be a well-known and widely worshipped band you have to tour constantly. That said, bands who just record and don't wish to play live, who still release albums far superior to more mainstream releases, don't necessarily 'fail' in my opinion.

What can you tell me about the Underground scene in your area? Are there devoted bands, audience, good live shows? The UK has always been a good place for various kinds of music.

Not much going on to be honest. There are devoted fans yes, though they are few. We do bring over decent bands and put on good gigs. It's just a shame they're at the same venues, which I personally feel are often insufficient for their purpose. I would be inclined to disagree on your last point. I think when it comes to various kinds of music the UK is very ignorant and uninformed.

The good work of Darragh from Invictus Productions makes a very good impression. Some people could say that I'm making this interview because he paid us for the

advertisement. But I must stress on the fact that I really liked your music. I never heard your band before but "Decrowning The Irenarch" won me from the first listening. I guess you are satisfied by the promotion of the new CD?!

Yes, the promotion has been pretty good; adverts in some of the more mainstream magazines etc. Darragh has done a good amount of work for us, both in investing in the recording of the album and promoting it on its release.

What is your opinion about printed magazines? Most of us wage a war for survival. Do you think there won't be printed magazines some day? It is something like the fight between vinyl and CD, right?

I completely support printed magazines. I'm much more inclined to answer an interview for a printed magazine than a web-zine, simply because I read more printed magazines than I do web-zines. I think there are still plenty of good Underground magazines being printed, the journalism being much better, more accurate and intelligent than both more mainstream magazines and web-zines. More effort goes into them, and thus they are more worthwhile to read. I don't think they will die out.

Plans for 2008? Maybe a tour, festival appearances...and a new record?

A new record for 2008?! We've only just started working on some new track ideas. There is a tour in the works for September 2008. Expect to see us throughout Europe at that time. Unfortunately we haven't had the opportunity to play on any major



festivals this year, but we will still be playing live.

How do you see the world in the light of SPEARHEAD's ideology? What are the biggest problems of mankind and do you think we can survive?

The modern world is one I could talk about for hours, about why it is at fault and how it has come to its position. I could give an extremely

lengthy answer for this, as there is much to be discussed regarding this matter. However as I am limited for time all I will say is that the degeneration of man is nothing new, and it is nothing to be overly concerned about either, as this is just the way it is and always has been. And I know I am not the only one to say this. Civilisations, ages of mankind, have always born and died, like the cycle of a man's life, from the purity of a newborn child to the decrepitude of a withered old man. When we look back at the last several thousand years we are slowly witnessing a degeneration of one age of mankind, who is but one cycle of ages, out of many. Our present cycle is nearing its end I believe, but this end could be hundreds of years away yet. And when it does happen, and the hiatus or twilight of purification is complete a new cycle will just begin again. This cycle of ages motif is present in all the great mythoi of the world, the Germanic, the Greco-Roman, the Hindu, the Aztec etc. My belief in this is thus indissoluble.

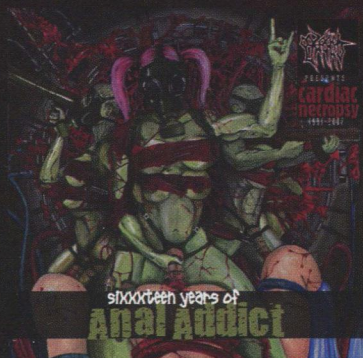
Last words to all Brutallica readers go here...

Thanks Brutallica for your support. Sic Semper Tyrannis!

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EXUMER

EXUMER

100% fast and furious Thrash Metal, since 1985!

The year is 1984, the place is West Germany. Some teenagers fell under the influence of bands like SLAYER and VENOM and the result was the forming of a new band – EXUMER. The beginning wasn't easy but the guys managed to attract the attention of the crowds. The debut LP "Possessed By Fire" stormed the fans in 1986 and the success was remarkable. The great amount of live shows and tours gave the band the status of one of the best German Thrash Metal bands. Unfortunately after the second album "Rising From The Sea" released in 1988 the band split up but rumours say that there will be a reunion in 2009. To check if this is true and to talk about the past and the future of EXUMER I decided to track down one of the original members of the band Mem Von Stein.

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

When I was a teenager EXUMER was a cult band, although we didn't even have a music market in Bulgaria in the 80s. Your albums were spread by tape traders mostly. I was a great fan of the band but it was almost impossible to know something more about you because of the iron curtain. Can you remember if you have received a lot of letters from Bulgaria? There was a well known trade form: vodka for LPs, ha, ha... I don't really remember if we used to get a lot of fan mail from Bulgaria but there was a ton of mail from Poland, once the records were domestically released over there. And there was a lot of Vodka as well...

You have created the band in 1984 when there were only a few Thrash Metal bands on the scene. Which were the bands that lit the fire in you?

Well, VENOM, EXODUS, SLAYER, POSSESSED, MERCYFUL FATE, EXCITER, HELLHAMMER etc. just to name a few. We used to be friends with bands like KREATOR, DESTRUCTION and other German bands who were also coming up back in those days. But really, the first album that did the trick for me was VENOM's "Welcome to Hell"! I was totally blown away when I bought that record in 1981, and then there was no turning back from that point on.

What are your memories of the first rehearsal of EXUMER? I guess the good equipment wasn't so accessible at this time?!

We had standard stuff for back in the day. Marshall Amps and I used to play a Rickenbacker bass. Rehearsals were always a good time, especially on the weekends because that's when we used have our friends come to my dad's junkyard where our rehearsal studio was located and watch us play. We all used to get pretty drunk there. We were teenagers with a lot of time and anger in our hands, what do you expect?

To have a band in the mid 80s and to have a band now in 2008, how do you see the positive and the negative things?

There is a whole lot more pressure in 2008. More pressure to deliver outstanding and crushing material and people's attention spans are way shorter than in the 1980s. It's not all bad though, I mean if you think about

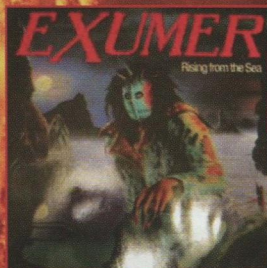
it from a point of view of healthy competition. You really have to make an effort these days because there is an ocean of bands and internet gives you unlimited access to them. I miss the spirit of the early days and that is the one thing that I wish to be back for.

What can you tell us about the first EXUMER record - the demo tape "A Mortal In Black"? How did it help you get a deal from SPV subsidiary Disaster Records?

Well, we recorded the demo in December of 1985 and it received mixed reviews. Some great and some not so great. However, we did sell all our copies rather quickly but never saw any money for them. The president of CELTIC FROST's fan club back then used to manage us and somehow he figured that he could keep the money from the sales. Needless to say that we fired him shortly after the incident. We got signed to Disaster Records after we played our second show and were sent to Berlin in order to record our first album with Harris Johns. Harris was very experienced and established, having worked with bands such as KREATOR and HELLOWEEN in the past. So, we went there and had no clue how to conduct a professional recording. Well, let's say Harris taught us within two weeks, where he would not talk to us for the first 10 days of recording. We were totally thrown off but he turned around and became really friendly and open when it was time to mix the album and then we understood the process. He just wanted to make sure that the work gets done. Which was great, because we did not have any idea how much work it would be to record a record.

How were your two LPs "Possessed By Fire" and "Rising From the Sea" accepted? Were you satisfied by the work of Disaster Records? Do you think they did a good promotion of both albums?

Disaster put a lot of promotion behind both albums but the reactions to PBF were amazing and the reaction to RFTS fell short. The second album had huge shoes to fill in regards to what the fans expected and the band was not at fault for not being able to deliver. I left the band after recording PBF,



so that meant finding a new singer (bass player), writing new material and recording a new album within 8 months after the release of PBF. Almost impossible and we were so young on top of that all, no wonder that it did not happen. **When was the first live appearance of EXUMER and what are your memories from this evening?**

Oh my god. The first show we did was in a Jazz club and our pay was two cases of beer. All our friends came to the show and went completely bezerk. It was total chaos and the owners of the place told us never to come back again. I think there are one or two pictures from that show in the re-release of PBF that High Vaultage Records put out a few years ago. Our shows were always an event...

I read somewhere that you have had close ties with another cult band from the 80s - ANGEL DUST. How was your friendship? Have you managed to play together on a tour?

Yeah, we used to be good friends and played shows together here and there but we did a lot of touring as well with other international bands. There was never an EXUMER / ANGEL DUST tour though.

What were your relations with the other cult German Thrash Metal band such as DESTRUCTION, SODOM, KREATOR?

Our relations were great, Germany is a relatively small country and the East only opened up in 1990. Most of the bands were from West Germany and therefore we knew each other pretty well. However, bands also played a lot in their own territories and there was a lot of swapping shows back then. Let's say we put a show together in Frankfurt with DESTRUCTION, and then they put a show together with us in the area where they came from.

What was the reason to split up EXUMER in the end of the 80s? After the demo "Whips & Chains" from 1989 you disappeared from the scene?!

The band was finished, man. Three different singers, no management and no label interest.



It was time to call it a day. But then Ray and Bernie (two guitarists) and I formed a band in 1993 that went on to be rather successful in a different genre of music.

Is it true that you have the intention to

make a real reunion of EXUMER, not only for live appearances but also to record a new album?

It is very true. I talked to Ray who lives in Germany and then to Paul who lives in Hawaii

"The first show we did was in a Jazz club and our pay was two cases of beer. All our friends came to the show and went completely bezerk. It was total chaos and the owners of the place told us never to come back again."

and we decided to reform the band. I've had my own Thrash Metal band SUN DESCENDS since I moved to New York City in the late 1990s, but I always felt that we, EXUMER, left without a proper exit. So, we are working on new material right now and will record the new, third EXUMER album early 2009. There are several festival appearances booked for 2009, starting with the Keep it True Festival, in April 2009. The new stuff is so fucking crushing and tight, but also true to our sound from the 1980s. It's the most exciting thing I've done in my musical career thus far. I've been playing in bands since 1984. Ray and I know each other since 1983 and I've known Paul since 1985. I'm an only child but those guys are my brothers, and I don't mean this in a cheesy way. How many bands do you know that can come back after all these years and have two original singers in the same line-up? Not many I guess.

How do you see the Metal scene today compared to the one in 1985? The difference is gigantic I guess but maybe the positive things are not so many?!

There are some positive aspects that I mentioned earlier in the interview but it's not quite the same as a whole. You know, I think it's to all of us who love this music to find the good things about the scene, the industry and the spirit, in order to continue to be involved. I always said this and I'll say it again: this music is for fans, made by fans. This music only works if it is played from the heart and I believe that with every fibre in my body.

Today with portals such as Myspace you can make a band even without a song recorded; images are more important nowadays. Do you agree that back in 80s, music was the thing that really mattered?

Sure, but you know it only works to a certain degree. The real test is when you are asked to perform live and deliver great songs and an equally great live show. Myspace won't help you much if you can't back your shit up with the real deal. It's still the music that really matters, back then, now and always.

If you make a new album how do you prefer to record it? I mean will you use the achievements of the digital era or you'd prefer some analog recording studio. Actually I'm not sure if there are real analog studios left?

We will go and make the best sounding album that we can! That is our mission. We want this third EXUMER album to be the best album that we can write and record. The last SUN DESCENDS CD was recorded analog and then dumped into the



computer. So, there are ways to get a certain feel and sound for sure. **Will you play on any big festivals this year?**

Not 2008, but in

2009. We want to play as much as possible. We owe to the fans and we will deliver! I promise!

Most of the young Metal fans probably don't know EXUMER. How could you explain to them what kind of band

EXUMER is?

Just listen to PBF or RFTS and you will know what we stand for. 100% fast and furious Thrash Metal, since 1985! **Thank you very much for**




your time. It is a great pleasure for me that you have reunited the band. I'm sure you won't disappoint us. We all wait to hear your new album. When do


you think it will be out?

Thank you. There is no "us" without you- or the fans! So thank you for the support throughout all these years. The new EXUMER album should be out sometime in 2009. The first official EXUMER web site will go live in May or June 2008, and the same with the official Myspace site.

Check for www.exumer1985.com. Thanks again and all best Metal thoughts go out to the Bulgarian Thrash brigades.

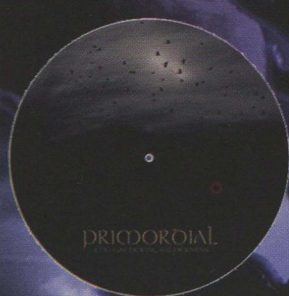


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Fuck yeah. I finally have the possibility to get an interview with one of my fave Australian bands. Undoubtedly BLOOD DUSTER is a great band not only because of their unique grinding death rock and self-deprecating humour but also because they remained true to the essence of the Underground. The double CD "Lyden Na" is a new beginning for them and I think a new provocation for their fans because of the added Rock 'N' Roll CD. Anyway, check out my chat with the bassist Jason PC, to see what is going on in the camp of BLOOD DUSTER. I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

Jason, what are the latest news around BLOOD DUSTER?

I guess the latest things that are happening are the re-issues of all the older albums; "Cunt", "Str8outtanorthcote" and "Fisting the Dead". Relapse kinda own the rights for them in the US and Europe so we thought we may as well make definitive versions with tons of bonus tracks and shit like that. We will be re-issuing them in Australia on our own label "Goatsound" and there will also be vinyl editions limited to 666 copies each. They all have really cool new sick artwork too...lots of zombies and shit like that. We had to put a lot of our own money and shit into these so I really hope people appreciate the effort. We are also going to the US for the first time so that should be interesting, who knows what people will make of us when they see us drunk and shit onstage...

What is the response to your double CD "Lyden Na"? It is interesting to know how the fans accepted Part 1 "The New Sound" CD. It is groovy rock'n'roll but my experience tells me that some hardcore grind maniacs would find it too soft.

Well we have always had inner and outer conflict with BLOOD DUSTER, we love rock and grind and all the other shit but we always felt some of our fan's only liked one part of what we do, that's why we separated the two styles. It makes it easier for people who only like grind to listen to us and the people who like the other side of what we do can listen to that.

A lot of people only listen to one disc. I think it makes perfect sense to do everything you want, I mean we are not doing this for anyone but ourselves really so who gives a shit? The next album will only be dance...shitty euro dance.

BLOOD DUSTER has existed for more than 16 years. That is quite a long period for a Metal band. How did you manage to keep the band for so many years?

I guess we have always had the perception that we will never "make it" you know? We are an Underground band, that's what we have always thought of ourselves as so there have never been any failed expectations on our part. We have been

really lucky to do some crazy shit that most Underground bands haven't had a chance to do but still that's what we are. Underground losers. And fucking proud of it. Also we all do other shit in our lives so BLOOD DUSTER is not our only focus, so I guess that has kept things interesting the whole time. It helps that also have really cool fans that support us no matter what crazy shit we try and do.

Did you record both parts at once? I mean did you need some kind of special mood and adjustment for each part. The first CD is relatively calm while the other disc is violent grind. I also heard that there is even a third album recorded along with the double CD but it is for download only. I haven't heard it yet but I guess it is another portion of psychotic brutality...?!

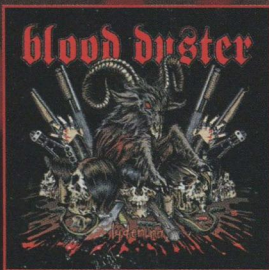
No they were all done at the same time; in fact the whole recording part was done in three days at a local studio. So for three albums that's pretty good.

I then took the recordings home and did overdubs and vocals at my house as I do a lot of recording myself. I kind of mixed the rock album first and then started the grind album when that was complete, and although they were recorded together the mindset was different for both. The third album you mentioned is kind of psychotic, it's just a long droning piece of a riff. It's just kind of a slow build up and kind of something we had wanted to do for a long time.

That actually took the longest to mix, probably only because I was burnt out by that point. It still came out o.k. but I should have put a little more effort into that at the time. I recently did a remix of it for the vinyl version that Apathic View will release really soon, and it sound much better to me. Most people who downloaded it will not hear the difference, but I can. The vinyl version will be double vinyl with all the elements, it should be really, really cool and I can't wait to see it.

I want to take you back to the time when BLOOD DUSTER was signed to Relapse Records. What do you remember from this period? What was your cooperation with Relapse? Why did you leave them?

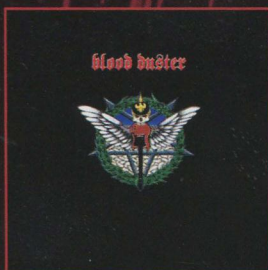
We were kinda forced to leave them as they didn't pay us. I kinda suspect, and I have no way of proving this at all... but to me it seemed like they didn't pay us and put us in a position where we HAD to leave, then when we left threatened everybody on a minute contractual obligation. I mean the long and short of it is, they didn't pay so we just gave the record to someone else, then they said that we didn't provide them with a written notice or some shit so they had us legally. I think they were just assholes, I mean



they could have paid, and it was the right thing to do. To hold a minute contractual thing over us was just some American legal bullshit. Contractually I guess they were in the right but I mean to not pay a band is just shit. Now they own those early records forever (for the US and Europe not Australia). We signed the worst contract ever. They didn't give us a cent as an advance for those records, we paid for them all ourselves, we just handed them final product and they handed us a corporate fist. It's all about money at the end of the day though, and the thing with America is that if a band wants to fight a label you ain't going to win, they have more money than you and you might as well suck a dick. These re-issues we paid for all the new covers ourselves, relapse wouldn't even give us the \$400 bucks for each cover so the product looked nice, that's some lame bullshit right there. I think we will get paid for these ones now as relapse seems to have changed a lot, in terms of the way the finance works over there, I mean we can access our sales reports online through them and I've heard good things from other bands, and I've never heard good things from bands on relapse before. I will say I've never had a problem with any of the staff at relapse, they have always been really cool, and everyone seems really nice and helpful but the financial side was just bullshit and they should be ashamed of what they did. It sounds really bitchy to talk about money and shit like that, but I think if more bands stood up and said shit str8 then less bands would get ripped.

Later on you released an album on Season Of Mist, right? Why didn't you continue the contract with this French label? By the way, you aren't the typical Season Of Mist band, they mostly release Black/Gothic Metal.

I think that's why, they didn't know how to promote us and shit you know? I mean it was really cool to be on a label with NATTEFROST but it wasn't really conducive to us selling copies. The Black Metal crowd probably wouldn't be slightly interested in what BLOOD



"We always felt some of our fans only liked one part of what we do, that's why we separated the two styles."

DUSTER are doing, although we are interested in what they are doing. Fuck that new DARKTHRONE album is fucking cool, in fact everything they have done is pretty cool, and the NATTEFROST albums are just awesome. But yeah Black Metal and NATTEFROST are

kinda opposites. They were a really cool label though, honest as fuck and they seemed to really like us, they just didn't know what to do with us once they had us.

Now you are signed to Obscene Productions. I think this is a very good decision because Curby is a diehard Metal fan and you can expect 100% support from him. How did you get this contract with Obscene?

In this scene it is kinda rare to find someone who loves something so much they are willing to put there money where there mouth is, Curby took us to Europe on his dime and made sure we eat, drank and had a good time. So when the time came to release the record we just gave it to him, it seems the right thing to do, I mean he is probably the only person to actively try and help one on one, he put us on his obscene extreme festival and helped make the US shows happen, that more than anyone has done for us. Also he has a really cool ethic, no contacts no bullshit. I mean we have had fights with him over shit, like touring in a van with him we had some cool arguments, but at the end of the day, he is on your side. He was just out here in Australia for a small holiday so I had him help do some house renovations... digging out tiles and shit! What label owner has this kind of relationship with the bands on the label? That's some Underground shit right there. Good label for us I think. At least until we get signed by some major label with tons of cash....Ha.

By the way, do you know that Curby is also a retro dance fan, ha, ha...? A guy from

INGROWING told me that ☺ It seems that he is a well-hidden dance maniac, ha, ha...

Yeah he like that really shit euro dance stuff, maybe he will like the shitty euro dance album that I mentioned earlier? He punished us with some really, really shitty stuff in the van on that last European tour, it was either GUT or lame retro dance/pop... I can't remember the name of that one band he kept playing but god it was awful. Oh and he really digs ABBA. What a freak.

You have been more than 16 years in the Underground. How do you look back at all these years in retrospect? I guess you had a lot of good moments but also some hard times, right?!

We never really had any hard times; I mean we had some shit stuff happen but nothing that was threatening to our existence you know? We will always continue no matter what happens, label bullshit, personal bullshit like line ups, all that shit doesn't matter.... we really like doing this band and probably always will.

I'm a fan of BLOOD DUSTER, Curby is a fan of BLOOD DUSTER, the list goes on... How do you see the fans of BLOOD DUSTER generally? What kind of people come to your concerts and buy your records/merchandise?

We have a really weird crowd, young chicks seems to like us, the Death Metal crowd seem to like us as well as the hardcore crowd and the rock scene thinks we are a bit of a novelty I guess. I don't think we really fit in anywhere. I see us more as a punk grind band to be honest...you know, not like GREEN DAY punk more like THE DWARVES or something, kinda on the verge of falling apart but with a sense of excitement. I really don't see us as a "haircopping" Death Metal band, or as a serious grind band...we just don't seem to fit, although grind seems to be the main thing that we do...what do you think?

You still release vinyl EP's. What are your



"I think the world is a shit place that isn't really a fair system. Too many rich, not just rich super fucking crazy rich with too much and too many people with nothing. It's bullshit."

for themselves...why not call an album cunt and see how to get it in shops?, do something stupid...I think that is they key. Thinking about doing stupid shit and then following through with that stupid idea.

Through the years you have parted ways with some BLOOD DUSTER members. What was the main reason for this? It is maybe not very easy to find people for a grind band in Australia?!

Some members were just fuckwits and some just wanted to do other shit. Finding members for BLOOD DUSTER is pretty easy as we are relatively successful in Australia and people want to be a part of that I think, also people see how much fun we have on stage and that we are not too serious about petty shit, I think we would be a fun band for everyone to join, I wish everyone could do the shit we get away with.

What are your political conceptions? What do you think about the new Australian government and what is your opinion about the current situation in your country. Is Australia a good place for living?

I kinda lean to the left I guess, I think our old government was heading towards an American styled government and that's some stupid shit as everyone can see the problems the US have with the stupid fucking bush family. Australia is a good place to live although it is getting more expensive I suppose. Our last government really made it hard for artists and shit as it was geared more towards big business as opposed to workers and the arts.

By the way, I read that your government has taken the decision to make an official apology to the Aborigines for the treatment over the years. What do you think about that? Do you think other governments; especially in America should do something similar?

Yeah the new government promised that and then walked into office and did it, I think this government has gone along way in terms of trying to get Australia back to what it was in terms of rights to workers that were taken away under the previous regime. Only time will tell if they can keep it together and keep doing things the right way. I don't really know too much about the native American situation so I am not qualified to comment.

What do you think is the trade mark of Australia? In musical aspect it should be AC/DC, right?! By the way what status do AC/DC have in their homeland?

AC/DC should be the best thing we have let loose on the world. What could be better? Vegemite? AC/DC are really huge here, same as everywhere really.

My wife's family used to manage AC/DC back in the day and got them signed in the US and shit like that, it's kinda funny at gatherings when they talk about people like Bon Scott and stuff and tell you stories about what it was like and shit. Good fun and really good way to make a family x-mas or birthday more fun.

How do you see the global economic crisis and do you think it is just the beginning?

Some financiers predict a very gloomy global economic picture.

I try not to think about it, I think the world is a shit place that isn't really a fair system. Too many rich, not just rich super fucking crazy rich with too much and too many people with nothing. It's bullshit.

Have you changed your musical tastes over the years? With every year I could say my

tastes become more various but I'm still true to the Underground scene.

I don't know if I've changed my taste as I've always loved lots of styles but I continue to find new shit to amuse myself with. I have recently (a couple years ago actually) developed a taste for 60s surf stuff. I really get into that shit, that's why I started my other band DOLFIN STABBER. I want to do surf gore grind, that's where my head is at right now. Expect a DOLFIN STABBER demo or EP late this year.

Do you find Internet downloading a great problem for the small bands? I mean bands that sell about 500 - 1000 copies of their records. On the other side, the bands should be very good to make people buy their music.

It's good and bad, yes more people get to hear you but lots of people don't bother buying albums anymore because they know they can get it for free.

I mean it doesn't affect people like Madonna or some fucking corporate emo band, but Underground bands are hit really hard, when you really only make albums to get your money back and not really profit, it's bullshit. I wish more people would support music but it seems like every new generation cares less about a band's existence than the previous generation. If you don't buy it how are the band going to pay for it? It's great to say people buy more merch but do they? And some bands don't even tour so you can't say that more people go to shows...fuck everyone. I still buy vinyl every week; it's a passion that will never die for me.

What is your recipe for good condition and high spirits?

Beer and lots of it, really I love the stuff. For other members it's various drugs and shit, I mean I'm partial to cocaine and shit but only really when it's free... our guitarist Beltsy doesn't do anything, no drinking, no drugs, no meat no animal products nothing...full vegan straight edge, but he can party harder than most dudes I know. That's all too hard for me, I need beer and as much as I can get.

What are your plans for the rest of 2008? Tour? New records and merchandise?! Give a clue what is next for BLOOD DUSTER.

Well we will do the US shows and we will have all the albums re-released like I said earlier, towards the end of the year I will start writing for the new album, no idea what the concept will be this time...that always comes last. I doubt even we could do the euro dance album promised earlier.

Is there a thing you wouldn't do even for 1 million dollars?

There is nothing I wouldn't do for a million dollars, I would fuck a goat, I would fuck a man, I would fuck and eat a half goat, half man. In fact I would probably kill. I "probably" wouldn't kill my wife, but the rest of the planet is not so safe though.

How would you react if your best friend cheats you with 5000 bucks?

I would kill him. A best friend would no longer be a best friend...do you know something you are not telling me?!

What is your greeting to numerous grindcore fans on this planet...

Stay fucking brutal and Underground, support bands buy official releases and throw your empty bottles at emo bands for wasting our time and breathing our air. Check out DOLFIN STABBER if surf grind seems like your bag.

latest vinyl releases and where can the fans get them?

We just released the split 7" with VENOMOUS CONCEPT, that was done with a moulded latex cover made to look like torn human flesh in a limited run of 200. It looked really cool, I imagine assholes will be selling them on eBay for really inflated prices soon enough. That edition sold out in just a few days, but we also have 300 of them with a normal full colour cover and they are still available on our website. In fact our site is probably the best place to find anything right now. We have been slack on this side of shit over the years but it now seems to be coming together. So yeah check that shit out if you want some merch and shit.

I think it would be fucking cool to have a DVD of BLOOD DUSTER, a special release that could include all available videos shot over the years. I think Obscene Production could make it if you agree of course?!

Well we are thinking of doing another DVD and we have filmed tons of shit on the euro tour, the problem is showing people everything, I mean we filmed some crazy shit that you can't really put on a DVD. All the drugs, sex and shit like that, a little violence but mainly drugs and sex. If we don't show you that how can you understand where we are coming from you know? Maybe we will do something in the future...something unrated and Underground.

How did you come up with the idea to make an album of two parts? The first CD - groovy rock and the other one - political grind?!

Maybe some kind of disorder, ha, ha...?! Possibly, we look at things from an artistic kinda viewpoint, I mean I would like to see more shit like that from bands, I mean a standard album with 12 songs and a hand drawn cover with pointy logo is cool but after 20 years it's getting kinda boring for me. I want some retarded shit, something with a little more thought throughout the whole process. I mean bands make things too easy

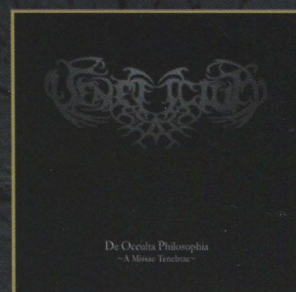
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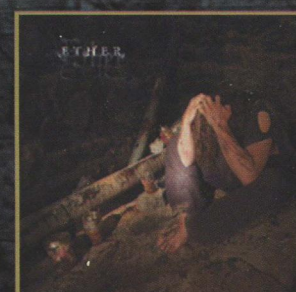
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The Black Metal band SAXORIOR was formed in 1994 and from what I know they have a very positive status among the bands of the German Underground scene. Their new album released by Battlegod Productions won me with its epic performances and majestic sound. The keyboardist Frank Nitzsche was very kind to answer my questions, so let's see what stands behind SAXORIOR!

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

I remember your band from a release of G.U.C. Productions from the end of the 90s. Actually how many albums have you released for the 15 years of your existence?

The band was formed in 1994. Since then we have released the following CDs: "Return from the dark Side" (1995), "Portent of Eternity" (1999), "Saxot" (2001), "Never ending Battles" (2004), and our new CD "Volkerschlacht". Also we have released one MCD with 3 songs "Beyond Conceptions" (1996) and a vinyl with 5 live songs. Of course every fan is welcome to see our web site www.saxorior-fanpage.de where he/she can find out everything about the band.

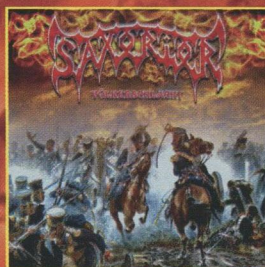
You play very epic Black Metal, especially what I heard from your last album. How can you describe the musical progression of the band over the years?

Actually we haven't changed our style over all these years, because we make music that

we really like. We even revise elements of many Metal styles and I may say we have found our style, which makes us independent. Musically the progression came quite naturally; this is why we think our last album "Volkerschlacht" is our best so far.

The cover artwork of "Volkerschlacht" reproduces some quite big battle. Could you tell us something about this artwork and its connection to the lyrics of SAXORIOR?

In our lyrics we use mostly Saxon stories. The cover of "Volkerschlacht" represents an old painting of the battle at Leipzig showing the Brandenburg's soldiers in skirmish with the Napoleon's army. This is one of the last crucial battles from 16 – 19 October 1813's wars of



liberation. With the 510 000 soldiers that took part, this battle is considered as one of the biggest in world history before WWI. The victory of the united nations forced Napoleon to draw off from Germany. In some of our other lyrics we have concentrated mostly upon our birth town Pirna and the vicinity. Pirna will celebrate this year its 775th birthday. We also have dedicated a song to the Pirna's rescuer Theophilus Jacobaer,

who had protected our town from a total obliteration from the Swedes under the leadership of Baner. We sing also for Johan Siegmund of Liebenau, who had defended with great success the stronghold Sonnenstein. In another song we did a remake of an old ballad of Widar Ziehnert telling about the saving of Gottleuba during the Bohemian wars (1420-1435) in 1429.

How did you make the connection with Battlegod Productions? It isn't so often to see a German band signed to an Australian label.

Actually this was quite accidental. Peter Schramm from the Metal magazine Ablaze and Pete from Battlegod saw us at Under the Black Sun 2002 festival and they came to us after our show. Pete was looking to hire a good studio for his band

BALTAK and Kai accepted. Except for that, Pete wanted also to work/record with BUIO OMEGA in Italy and he asked Kai if he can help to put everything in order in the musical aspect. During their work in the studio Kai told him "your voice bells like the one of Bryan Johnson". That's how we came to the idea to make the cover version of AC/DC's "For Those About to Rock" with Pete on vocals. So, this is the story of our contact with Pete (Battlegod).

Where and how did you record the new album, please say some words about the studio and the equipment that you have used. Whose was the merit for the good productions?

We recorded "Volkerschlacht" in Kai's studio. We recorded it both analog and digital (with HD recorder). We did the records together but Kai did the mixing and mastering, he has a lot of work. He sent back to us copies of the record until we all were satisfied by the final result. So, I can say that the credit goes to Kai, he is to be thanked for the good production. He invested a lot of days and nights in "Volkerschlacht".

I remember there was a very famous Metal label - Last Episode. Even in some publications I read that they have been the biggest for Black Metal in Germany. But their attitude towards their bands was awful and after some time they lost the trust. I heard that Last Episode have ripped off a lot of people. What can you say us about this already dead label?

We know this story only from what we have heard, so it is not fair to talk about it because the things could be easily distorted. But definitely we have heard some very comic stories connected with Last Episode.

How do you write your music? What is the base? Who makes the arrangements and who writes the lyrics?

Eschi and Kai write the music because they both managed to create a peculiar style of creating music, which makes SAXORIOR somehow unique and superb. It is an amalgam of many Metal directions. About the lyrics we alternate with each other, according to who has the better idea. Also some friends send us some lyrics and we adapt the songs to them.

I guess you not only play Black Metal but you also listen to this style mainly?! What kind of bands do you prefer to listen to and how far your musical tastes go?

If we speak about Metal we listen to everything that is good for us, there is no specific style that we prefer. Even some of us listen with pleasure Mike Oldfield and also classical music.

You told that Kai-Uwe has his own studio. Which bands have recorded their albums in his "Polygam" Studio?

Yes, Kai has a studio in Pirna. There are a lot of bands that record their albums in Polygam Studio: BALTAK, DUNKELGRAFEN, AEVERON, WARSPITE, and of course SAXORIOR.

I'm very impressed by the composition "The Last Battle Of A Great Warrior" from "Volkerschlacht", especially the atmosphere and the great harmonies created by the keyboards. Could you describe this song, it sounds majestic?!

In this song the story goes for a brave warrior who's fighting and he is wounded to death. In his last moments his entire life passes by him like a tape. In this song every listener could luxuriate in his own fantasies.

You're from East Germany, right? 18 years after the union of Germany do you feel any difference between the West and East, mainly in the economical sphere? What are your memories from the time before 1989?

Still there are big differences between the east and the west. For example, the salaries here are lower than in the West Germany and the unemployment is double. About the time before 1989, I remember mainly the good things; the cohesion was much better, today it's not the same, almost everybody lives like a loner, unfortunately.

As Germans have you feel a sense of guilt because of World War II. Germany is responsible about this war that caused the death of millions of people. What is this war for the young Germans?

There always have been wars and probably there will be new and new wars in the future in which a lot of innocent people will die. This is a horrible and scary thing but that is the truth. If you get back in time, during the middle ages, the Church led a lot of wars. Even now there are a lot of civil wars in many places but you know we can't make anything to change the situation. The World War II is a part of our history but I do not think that the young people should feel a sense of guilt, because these young people haven't been born yet and they can't do anything to change the history. World War II is a part of the history, we can speak for it forever but we cannot change anything.

What's next for SAXORIOR until the end of 2008?

First we want to play live again. Also we will re-release on CDs some of our sold out albums ("Potent Of Eternity" and "Beyond Conceptions") with some bonus tracks added.

Your wishes for the Brutallica Magazine readers?

We'd like to thank you for your interest; we wish you and your readers all the best! Keep the good work!

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Bernett

DEVILISH impressions

Although we were cheated and bitterly disappointed by the owner of Conquer Records this doesn't mean we have to pour our hate toward his bands. The guys from DEVILISH IMPRESSIONS were very cool, they didn't understand the behaviour of their label's owner, moreover they did their best to help us with what they can. Actually we decided to interview them not for this but because they are one of the most promising Polish Death Metal bands, with a great potential and energy, incredible musical knowledge and skills and something very important - they have the respectfully attitude toward people who are trying to promote their music. This is much appreciated at Brutallica camp!

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

What stands behind the name DEVILISH IMPRESSIONS?

Variety of visions that are being shaped into musical forms eventually... When we formed the band back in 2000 we wanted it to have a name that would reflect our aspiration of making something that can't be easily classified or labelled. Since the music we compose contains many elements characteristic to different genres it somehow gives you a hint what it's all about. Besides, it also points the direction we chose as messengers of certain idea...

What are the lyrical and musical directions of DEVILISH IMPRESSIONS?

We play sort of symphonic Black / Death Metal but there are also many Thrash or even Heavy Metal's structures one may find in our creation. I'd say it all depends whether you take it as whole instead of rather splitting it up for particular parts. There's definitely Black Metal atmosphere hovering above it all yet complexity of DEVILISH IMPRESSIONS' music doesn't allow matching it with elements associated with Black Metal only. I guess anyone who likes it extreme but melodic should find it interesting. Obviously, I'm not talking about the melodies that ruin the aggressiveness. This is fucking Metal so it has to be somehow brutal and ass-kicking but at the same time we're not afraid of using things some would say are inadmissible, especially to this particular subgenres. It's definitely addressed to open-minded people, to those who're looking not only for yet another sound that make your head banging but also for something that may get you hooked when discovering all hidden details and other things we worked hard to be audible on the records. Talking about the lyrics - each work that we put out under the name of DEVILISH IMPRESSIONS glorifies cult of personality. There is no God or Satan, nor good or evil known as comprehensible notions so

overestimated by the masses nowadays...

Creation through destruction - could this be possible?

Indeed, there's always something to be destroyed to build the groundwork for the follow up creations. Just look at the history... Almost every political system over the world or even if you consider our civilization - it all was built upon a destruction of its successors.

I want to talk about your latest album "Plurima Mortis Imago". First, let me know where did you get this title from and what will the people find in it if they decide to get a copy?

Well, first of all our latest album is "Diabolicanos" and I was more than sure this interview will be more about the new stuff rather than about "Plurima Mortis Imago". The one you're talking about is our previous work, recorded back in 2005, officially released on Conquer Records in 2006. Anyway, it's part of the band's history and I'm more than pleased it's still being discovered even though its premiere was almost two years ago. Obviously, it's kind of strange to talk about something that is not so representative to our present activities but, hmm, I'll try my best to give it a go. "Plurima Mortis Imago" means 'many faces of death' and both musically and lyrically it's an attempt of presenting imaginary visions of death itself, giving it personality instead of considering it as a natural phenomenon or a consequence of life only. We had faced many problems while putting this stuff together, especially with the guy who was responsible for getting the drums and guitars' tracks recorded, and that unfortunately affected the album's production. I'm glad we're

through it even though - believe me - it was and sometimes still is real pain in our asses. There are good songs on the album and I'm just totally pissed off when thinking this could have been much better if the sound and edition have not been fucked up. Anyway, what's done it's done and what really matters is that "Plurima Mortis Imago" album got us prestigious media's attention as well as allowed us to play our first European tours with AETERNUS and with MARDUK later on, on both holding the main support slot. I'm really happy the album, despite its production, gathered so much of media and fans attention.

Why did you record the album at various places; the drums and the guitars in Mamut Studio; the synthesizers and the vocals in Hendrix Studios; the mixing at a home studio? Is it because of money shortage or lack of co-ordination?

You see, it's a pretty long story but I'll try to make it as short as it possible. At the earliest presumptions it was meant to be recorded at Hendrix Studios but since the sound engineer, who normally works as a sound-guy of BEHEMOTH, was suddenly forced to head off onto some last-minute booked concerts with them, we had to search for other solution instead. That's how we ended up with few places and different guys to work with on this album. I really don't want to go into details anymore. It would just takes ages to explain how the things eventually evolved and I guess it doesn't really matter right now, especially since we've got the new album out, produced the way we really wanted it to be produced. Apart of that, I believe we should never look back as there are many

things coming up that I prefer to concentrate on.

Some people have labelled your music as avant-garde Black Metal. It would be interesting to know how you depict it.

I guess it somehow matches the musical path we follow. It's slightly changed with our latest work - the "Diabolicanos" album - which is way more rhythmical, filled with catchy riffs, breaks and slow-downs giving our music different direction than the one represented on "Plurima Mortis Imago". Above all, I think every fan of extreme music will find something to identify him / herself with.

How important are the keyboards in your compositions? Without them, the album will definitely not be so mystic and majestic at places.

Yeah, you're absolutely right about it my friend. DEVILISH IMPRESSIONS wouldn't be the same if there were no synthesizers into its creation. All the keyboard parts are inseparable element of each track that's been composed under this name. At the same



I'm obviously conscious of the fact Polish scene has become incredibly strong over the last few years only. Needless to say a key role in getting Polish bands abroad played international success of the likes such as VADER or BEHEMOTH. And mostly thanks to those bands people from all over the world turned their eyes onto our scene.

time I'd have to point the way synthesizers are being used in our songs is different to the way many other bands use them. What we always try to do is to find possibly the best solution not to let them take over the guitars and other instruments typical for Metal music. The track "Dracula's Mechanized Universe" hosts a re-working of Ludwig Van Beethoven music. Quite a bold initiative, some would say. Could you describe this track and can we say this is the progressive path of DEVILISH IMPRESSIONS?

I don't really think so. It was just an idea to unite this certain sound with blend of the band's own musical visions. I guess there are more progressive parts into our music than the fragment you're talking about even though it seems to be the one easily associated with such way of thinking.

Have you had any fears that your music is quite complex and some people would not understand it?

No, not really. As I've stated somewhere above, I believe our music is addressed to rather open-minded listeners who consider certain bands creation not only as a bunch of sounds that are Metal just for the sake of being Metal. We're not forcing anyone to buy our records and to fall in love with them after giving them first listen. It is complex, so as it is demanding. I believe though anyone who gives it a try won't be disappointed afterwards. The only question is what someone's expectations like...

What do you prefer: the music of EMPEROR or the music of BAL-SAGOTH, and why?

Definitely the EMPEROR's one! I'm not saying BAL-SAGOTH is bad or whatsoever, it's just that it's way beyond my perception of seeing their sound as something that would get my attention as much as other artists' music do. EMPEROR uses the harmonies and patterns much darker and mystical than those BAL-SAGOTH uses. And that's what mostly pushes me to the Norwegians in this case.

Would you change your image in order to sell more copies of your albums? Many Black Metal bands use an image even without understanding its essence.

Well, I don't really care about others. No matter whether we talk about Black Metal or other genres - we play what we want to play and look the way we want to look. Image is kind of a mask artists wear while being on stage only. It's actually funny to see these ultra-mega-true-black-metal-warriors claiming to be the only respectable heirs of Black Metal's inheritance. I mean - what the fuck? Do they go shopping with their corpse-paint on? Do they shit

with their hands spotted with blood of just-killed-Christian or it's rather the fake blood they got at the paint shop round the corner? I believe the essence of Black Metal remains deep inside someone's heart and doesn't have to be exposed to applause of the outer world, not for the sake of fulfilling someone else's expectations. **How is the live activity of DEVILISH IMPRESSIONS? Can you remember your first live appearance? What is the feeling when you play in front of some hundreds/thousands of fans?**

It's just amazing, man! This is where the music truly lives by taking the energy out of the crowd and making you as musician to return it with magic that is being closed into particular sounds. We all in DEVILISH IMPRESSIONS fucking love it and I guess that's why our live shows are being highly appreciated.

The first show I did must have been around 1994/1995 with the very first band of mine. It must have been terrible I guess but it's definitely given me something that still pushes me to keep on going. There is certain rule I learned over the years and that all of us in DEVILISH IMPRESSIONS always try to follow - no matter if there's few thousand people to play for or 5 of them only - each of them paid the fucking money to see you performing the best you can so we always give 100 percent to each of our show!!!

You just completed your tour with the legendary DISMEMBER. What are your impressions from this tour? Where did you make the most insane show?

It's always a great pleasure to play along the bands we as fans always admired! DISMEMBER guys proved not only to be a great band but also fantastic people to spend the time with. I think the best shows on this tour were those in London or Dublin where all the maniacs just went totally crazy, giving us support we'll never forget.

What about the equipment of DEVILISH IMPRESSIONS? Even the good musicians need good equipment. I know it costs a lot but this is not such a big problem for a devoted musician, right?

Sometimes it may be... You see, that's what differs musicians of countries such as Poland from the likes of Germany or England - we don't earn money big enough to cover the expenses of really good equipment therefore it sometimes takes ages before you get the instruments or other stuff you really want to own. But, as you've accurately-aimed noticed, for someone devoted strong enough it's just a matter of time to get it.

What are your interests outside music? How is life in Poland

and how can you explain the presence of so many qualitative Metal bands in your country?

I don't actually know. It's just the way it is, I'd say. I'm obviously conscious of the fact Polish scene has become incredibly strong over the last few years only. Needless to say a key role in getting Polish bands abroad played international success of the likes such as VADER or BEHEMOTH. And mostly thanks to those bands people from all over the world turned their eyes onto our scene eventually. If you're not familiar with the names of CHRIST AGONY, INFERNAL WAR, HATE, TRAUMA or THUNDERBOLT - you should definitely give them a try! And believe me - this is just a peak of the Polish Metal scene's ice-berg.

What is your opinion about the independence of Kosovo and the policy of the double standards?

Well, honestly speaking I don't know much about it not to mention the fact that I'm not interested in politics at all. It just makes me sick knowing there's so much shit around and that as individuals we all mean nothing to those who control the societies, those who take an advantage on particular conflicts that usually lead to war to eventually make it a perfect source of amazingly high incomes... Fuck them all!!!

Do you already have plans for the next record?

Well, our new album - "Diabolicanos" - has just been released in January this year and since we've been quite busy touring the whole Europe lately we didn't have much time to think of composing some new stuff yet. As part of the "Diabolicanos" promotion we've already done three tours - headlining one in Ukraine, European with BEHEMOTH and SUICIDE SILENCE and the one with DISMEMBER across England, Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland. Meanwhile we've appeared at Wacken Road Show in Kiev alongside OVERKILL, SAMAE, ENSLAVED and TRISTANIA. Soon we'll be heading for our first tour in Poland ever in May to finish the winter / spring promotional session of "Diabolicanos" with an exclusive gig as main support for SATYRICON in Kiev once again. More tours coming up after the summer holiday and I really hope we'll finally get opportunity to invade your country too.

Your final words/thoughts?

Thanx for supporting Devilish Impressions! Those who are brave enough - check us out by visiting the band's website or myspace profile. Natas Ro Dog On Si Ereht!!! We shall see you all one day motherfuckers!

On behalf of Devilish Impressions - Quazarre (voc, guitar)
www.myspace.com/devilishimpressions
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Well, DEICIDE don't need a special presentation. Already considered as one of the most significant Death Metal bands on the planet, DEICIDE strike us with a new album, "Till Death Do Us Part" – probably their most brutal record they ever made. With the help of Talita from Earache I had the chance and the pleasure to talk about it with the drummer Steve Asheim...

STOYAN TSONEV

Hello, Steve. It's Stoyan from Brutallica Magazine, Bulgaria.

Hi, how are you doing out there?

I'm fine, thanks. Where are you calling me from?
From London.

Steve, I was just listening to the album for the 5th or 6th time. "Till Death Do Us Part" is out on April 28th. The production is killer! Are you personally satisfied with how the album sounds?

Yes, I am. I'm really happy as a matter of fact. This is definitely one of my best productions ever, if not, in years. The next one that comes closest would be the "Once Upon The Cross" production. Having in mind the quality of the tracks and the mastering that was done, this is definitely our top production piece, talking about technical studio production. It really sounds brutal. I should ask you about the title. Was there any particular reason for you to choose it? It sounds a bit unusual for DEICIDE?

Yes, I think it is unusual for DEICIDE. All lyrics, titles and words are basically handled by Glen, so it always comes from his unique perspective. Considering his current state of affairs, he wrote about his life, in a very angry manner. So, the titles are maybe a bit unusual for DEICIDE, but looking at the lyrics, they are probably some of the most hate-filled epics ever; I think his most hateful actually and his voice is very brutal. If you know what I do, what he's going through and what he's trying to say, then, yes, this is the time to get a fuller picture of Glen and what he is about. If you've heard any rumors and then read the lyrics, then you know what it's all about and you know it's real. It's real anger.

I think everybody will agree that the new album is much more brutal than its predecessor – "The Stench Of Redemption" and it really makes impression that you have brought back the brutality of your earlier work. Was that intentional or, as you said, it was just a consequence of what both you and Glen have been through?

If you remember, when "The Stench Of Redemption" came out, people were saying – "oh, they've brought forth the melodic aspect, the leads are so melodic" and so on, so we were looking to negate any melodic aspect that this album would have. That is not to say we didn't want harmony guitars or melodic solos, no, but we didn't want the kind of "hopeful", "happy" melody, you know what I mean? We just gave the melodies "that" type of dark, disharmonic feeling and that gave the album this dark tonality musically.

You just answered a great part of my next question. It was connected with the fact that "The Stench Of Redemption" was probably the most melodic DEICIDE album, having in mind the killer lead guitarwork of Ralph. Now, although he still plays in "Till Death Do Us Part", the flashy melodic guitar solos are reduced to the minimum. Does that mean you were not satisfied with how "The Stench Of Redemption" turned out or it was just a natural thing?

No, we were all satisfied with "The Stench Of Redemption" for

sure. That's a great record, it stands up on its own but we didn't want to replicate it. We were trying to get back to the grimmer aspects of DEICIDE that people were used to and certainly I was used to. In fact, these melodic aspects have been there even before "The Stench..." What happened was that Ralph and Jack were still new in the band and this was the first recording with them and it was kind of new and exciting for us all. I didn't want to come down and say "that stuff is too melodic", I was just so blown away by all of this guitar work that I was just happy with everything, because we never had that kind of quality guitar work on our records before. This doesn't mean the honeymoon is over; we just felt it was going too melodic, so let's just start messing it back right now and see what happens, haha.

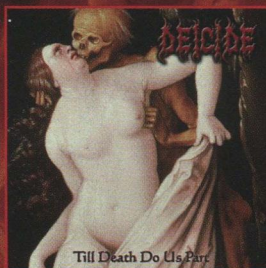
Steve, I read over the internet that Ralph is no longer a full-time member of DEICIDE and he only helped you in the studio. Who will play lead guitars on the road and do you plan to look for a permanent replacement for Ralph?
There is no problem with that right now because we are not touring, we are not going on the road any kind soon that I know of. So that's not something we have to worry about. We are eventually going back on the road, whether it's this year or next year or whenever and if Ralph is available, I'm pretty sure he will step up on the road with us and if he's not available then we'll get someone else and we've got some people in mind. And I'd always expect DEICIDE to have some shredding guitar work. So there will be someone in there.
You say you don't plan going on the road any sooner. Why is that?

Well, the fact is that Glen has this personal problem that he has to resolve before he can get back on the road. It's a big deal, it hasn't been resolved yet and it's going over for a year and a half now and it has the potential to go on through the rest of this year at least and maybe into next year. So, it's safe to say we will not be on tour this summer or this fall. There's a slight chance we go on the road after that, but I'm not holding my breath for that either because I thought we were going on the road last month and we didn't. I'm not gonna say anything because it hasn't happened yet and when I say something it looks stupid every time.

Now, in 2008, do you still have problems with censorship in the States?

Mmm, not really! What happens is that there is freedom of speech in both directions. There are people that criticize but they are free to do so as we are free to say whatever we wanna say. That's the good thing about America. There are always such people but they are not from the government. They come to our shows and say shit but are not a thing to worry about.

It's good to hear that! Steve, do you personally follow the extreme scene nowadays? You have some really



promising labelmates on Earache like EVILE, MINICIPAL WASTE. What do you think about this?

Talking about this whole new generation of Thrash bands, I think that's really cool. I'm not listening to much music besides our own so I don't know if this is as big as they say it is. It is good, because it's always been us, CANNIBAL CORPSE and MORBID ANGEL and now there is this

new wave of Death Metal bands coming out. It means that what we've done has never really died if there are living tributes to it. The more bands are coming out, the better that is for everybody.

Steve, judging from your personal experience, especially with DEICIDE, does an extreme Metal band need to be controversial in order to be successful or it could count on good music only?

It has to be a little controversial, of course, because it's gonna get your name and pictures out there. It's gonna get you on

screens, TV shows and internet sites. But you have to have the quality product to back that up. You have to act both, you got to have the whole package. You can't just be a good band with nothing else to show – you'd be a bunch of boring Americans. On the other hand you could be the most over-the-top band and suck musically. You should try to be both to be successful.

Tell me something about keeping yourself fit on the road, especially in your case, being one of the most intense and technical drummers. How do you keep up through all these years?

I just basically try and stay in shape, because playing that shit is not easy. You got to really break yourself in half to get out there and play that shit. You gotta be in shape to play for an hour and be in general good health to do an entire tour and you have to be in a REALLY good shape to do 80 tours, ha-ha. Being a drummer in Death Metal, you just have to be in good shape. Look at people who are not in such good shape and are trying to do it – you'll see that their skill are lacking or they will need more help in the studio or they do a pound of cocaine before they do a show or they do a case of Red Bulls. You know what I mean?

Yes. Final question, Steve. I wanna ask you about the personal relationship among the members of the band now. We all know that you had problems with the Hoffman brothers in the past. Now the band includes one, so-called "new" member in the face of Jack Owen. What can you tell us about him and how are things going on a personal level in the band now?

Jack is a wild man! He is out of his mind crazy, but he is a DEICIDE-do. He stepped up for DEICIDE from the first moment we needed him and is still with us. A guy like that is actually pretty rare, because he is very talented and very dependable. Jacko is the man!

I am happy to hear that and that everything is OK at least in this respect. Thank you very much for this interview, Steve.

Thanks you for your time and for digging the album.

Let's really hope that everything will be solved soon and the band will hit the road.

I certainly hope so and I would like nothing more than that – getting on the road and blowing people's faces off!

10 - HITS THE CEILING! 9,0 - BRILLIANT; 8,0 - GROUNDBREAKING; 7,0 - OKAYISH; 5,0 TO 6,0 - COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER; 1,0 TO 4,0 - TOTAL TIME WASTE

LENG TCH'E

"Marasmus" CD
RELAPSE

The new album of my fave Belgian bands. Even before to put the CD in my stereo I was sure the guys won't mislead me. When the first track "Lucid Denial" filled up my new Monitor Audio front speakers with its monstrous mega-heavy sound I was sure, the entertainment for me had just begin. With "Marasmus" LENG TCH'E show us their indisputable progress, especially in the diversification of the song structures. The early LENG TCH'E works were mostly gore grind oriented where the sheer brutality was the dominant thing, something typical for the deep Underground, but now the music of the Belgians is a mixture of Grind, Death Metal, Hard Core and even slight Rock N Roll influence. There are a lot of various tempo changes, slow passages alternate with fast rumble grind explosions, screaming core-like vocals mixed with guttural gore ones. This makes the album much more various, you can listen to it several times without feeling any boredom. But don't get me wrong, "Marasmus" is still a fucking intense and brutal, and something very important it is perfectly recorded, mixed (Fredman Studio) and mastered (West West Side Music) album. Be sure to check it out!

Chavdar Tzachkov.....8,0

GRIMNESS 69

"Grimness Avenue 60" CD
GROTESQUE Productions

The Italian gods of gore Metal strike with their first LP. Heavily influenced by IMPETIGO and GOREROTTED, these Italians waited for 6 years to release their debut album for the Spanish GROTESQUE Records. 17 tracks of unmatched brutality and harmful to your ears grind core.

Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0

WARSPITE

"Confrontation Course" CD
G.U.C.

After two split albums with BLOOD and GROINCHURN respectively, one EP "We Are With God" and the debut CD "Gallery Of The Macabre", the German quintet WARSPITE released their second album "Confrontation Course". The record offers 12 tracks of raging Death Metal with "Swedish" sound. This means heavy and melodic riffs, fast-paced drumming and a combination of Death growls and higher screams. Not bad as a whole but the problem is that all 12 tracks in "Confrontation Course" sound almost the same - same tempo and harmonies over and over again. This album just doesn't stand out with anything although it is well performed. WARSPITE should try to put more variety in their songs next time if they want to achieve more recognition in the world of extreme Metal.

Tsvetan Rachev.....5,0

2 MINUTA DREKA

"Let's Start A Porn In The Name Of Gore" CD
HALF-LIFE

Italian Porno Gore Grind band released by a Los Angeles label... life is funny sometimes... The recipe is well-known. Take a lot of extracts from porn/gore movies, add a disgusting gory Japanese manga cover + song titles like "Headcrashed Blowjob", "Medical Division Ejaculation", etc and the ideology of "Let's Start A Porn..." is almost completed. Actually the music of 2 MINUTA DREKA isn't bad for this kind of style. If you love bands such as GUT, ROMPEPROP, MEATSHITS, COCK AND BALL TORTURE and some other similar heroes, then you probably will like 2 MINUTA DREKA. Everything in this release is created to make you sick. The repulsive layout, the ultra guttural deep gore vocals, the sperm-freezing low tuned guitars and the mega-



fast grinding assaults. Yes, this is not for curious and inexperienced fans, be prepared. I didn't like hearing so many movie samples in a less than 30 min album, next time more playing guys.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....6,0

NOMINON

"Remnants Of A Diabolical History" CD
Pulverised

NOMINON are among the veterans in the Swedish Death Metal scene. The band was created in 1993 and up to now they have three full-length albums, three EP's and a split CD with FAFNER. "Remnants Of A Diabolical History" is a compilation officially released by Pulverised Records with rare and unreleased tracks as well as three covers - VOIVOD's "Live For Violence", WHIPLASH's "Spit On Your Grave" and REPULSION's "Decomposed". NOMINON play oldschool Swedish Death Metal, the way it used to sound from the first records of NIHILIST, GRAVE, DISMEMBER... "Remnants Of A Diabolical History" has 11 tracks from different periods of the band and this means also different sound quality of the songs - some are more like demo recordings, others are more professional. Anyway, this isn't a big deal since the true oldschool Death Metal spirit is present. The fans of the early Swedish Death scene should definitely check this CD out! NOMINON also have a new album released with the title "Terra Necrosis" and a new two-song EP so look out for those recordings too. Those Swedes deserve your attention!

Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0

THE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

"Oidious Operettas" CD
RELAPSE

Ha, ha, this is funny! THE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS are a collection of real-life pathologists formed by Dr. Morton Fairbanks (guitar) and Dr. Jack Putnam (drums), and rounded out by 63-year old Dr. Guy Radcliffe. What do you think is the musical direction? You guess... CARCASS? If so, you are damn right. "Oidious Operettas" is something like a tribute to the early CARCASS works, not so unique and insane but a good option to remember the dawn of gore grind. Everything here reminds of CARCASS: the sound, the two kinds of vocals, the name of the tracks, the guitar effect, even the cover artwork done by the famous Orion is in the vein of "Symphonies of Sickness". I guess some people will call TCME a CARCASS clone; others will find them as a parody... well for me "Oidious Operettas" is an album created from people with great sense of humor, something I think we really need nowadays. If you are still a CARCASS (old) fan and you feel nostalgia for their golden age period then you can find a little consolation in "Oidious Operettas".

Chavdar Tzachkov.....7,0

ARMENTAR

"Baptism By Hate" CD
ABSORB Records

Belgium isn't well-known with its Black Metal scene but here we have a band from that country with its debut album "Baptism By Hate". ARMENTAR play raw and nihilistic Black Metal without keyboards or female voices, just simple monotonous riffs and harsh shrieking vocals. Be prepared for a solid dose of DARKTHRONE-like hateful sound and ominous anti-Christian propaganda. The weak spot is that ARMENTAR's songs are totally standard, I've heard all of this before and I guess I'll hear more bands like this in the future too. There is a vital need of freshness into their sound; otherwise "Baptism By Hate" is a tolerable record. If raw and simplistic Black



Metal is your stuff - check this out!

Tsvetan Rachev.....5,0

GOAT SEMEN

"En Vivo En Lima Hell" CD
DISPLEASED

We got it here, a pretty intense live recording of the legendary Columbian black metal band GOAT SEMEN, also a rehearsal was added. First of all, I wasn't sure if the band was old school or the recordings were terrible, but I know it is a combination of the two. The rehearsal sounds much better, the live recording sounds as if you are inside the audience, no clear balance between the instruments. Anyway, even if I don't like raw meat, I like raw metal and if you share my passion for it, this might be the thing for you.

Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0

BLACK THE SKY

"Simplistic Mechanics Of Deformable Bodies" CD
EPITOMITE Records

Judging by the name and the witty titles like "It Ain't Cheating If She Ain't Breathing" and "I Slept With A Member Of BTS And All I Got Was Rope Burn And Bloody Asshole", this should be a Death/Metalcore band and so it is. We all know that this particular scene is overflowing with mediocre bands but luckily this isn't the case with BLACK THE SKY. This long-titled record is their debut EP and it offers some intriguing moments. The vocalist Dustin Sumner is just 16 years old but he is doing some very talented and furious growls and screams - very good throat! The drummer James Whitehurst (ex-LIVIDITY) is changing the tempo constantly from mid to grinding and strangely enough there aren't many boring beatdown parts. The guitars' sound is powerful and the riffs are interesting enough to keep your attention. BLACK THE SKY is a band above average and are able to stand out in the sea of standard Death/Core groups. If you like this genre - listen to this EP.

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5

SEROTONAL

"The Utility Of Trying To Avoid The Unavoidable" CD
METAL BREATH Records

Well, I admit I didn't expect this. This album kept me hypnotized. It is a project of Darren White (Anathema/The Blood Divine fame) and some other musicians. It was released on Metal Breath label, but it has almost nothing to do with metal. The first track starts with a strong SUICIDE feeling (remember these NY 70s electronic punks?). The other songs are more or less good sounding melancholic gothic rock, rather acoustic in certain parts. You can think of the SISTERS OF MERCY or some TYPE O NEGATIVE. This edition is especially limited, as it includes the same titled EP and 2 bonus tracks that were "download only" before its release. A pretty good album!!

Ivailo Tonchev.....9,0



DESECRATION

"Process Of Decay" CD
EPITOMITE Records

DESECRATION are proud representatives of the Welsh Death Metal scene with already seven albums behind their back! The band was created in 1993 and in its current lineup are Ollie Jones (vocals/guitar) and Mic Hourihan who both are also part of the mighty EXTREME NOISE TERROR. Originally "Process Of Decay" was released by Copro Records in 2005 but this CD I'm gutting now is the American release by Epitomite Records. DESECRATION will torture your eardrums with 9 pieces of brutal Death Metal in the best traditions of gory bands

like GENERAL SURGERY, REGURGITATED and good old CARCASS. A curious fact is that the band's frontman Ollie Jones is a practicing mortician himself so you can bet your ass that his lyrics are closely related to his profession in ordinary life. "Process Of Decay" has excellent groovy riffs, grinding and technical drumming and several different types of growling vocals. Tracks like "Maggots In Evidence", "Bacterial Breakdown" or "Corpse Fauna" rock like hell and will bring delight to the heart and stomach of every fen of the old school Gore Death Metal scene. Don't waste your time and start searching for the last spawn of one of the strongest extreme UK bands!

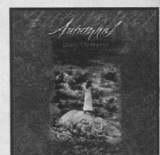
Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0

AUTUMNAL

"Grey Universe" CD
XTREEM MUSIC

The universe is grey, according to the guys from AUTUMNAL. Created after 12 years of existence, their first CD presents 6 long and heavy tracks of Doom/Death Metal, heavily inspired by bands like MY DYING BRIDE, the early PARADISE LOST, ANATHEMA and many others from the mid 90s. The cello, handled by Maria Ingemo adds some grim and savage atmosphere to this doomy pessimistic Metal. Highly appreciated!

Ivailo Tonchev.....7,0



NORTH

"Na Polach Bitew" CD
PAGAN Records

If your band is called NORTH and the cover artwork of your album shows running men with swords who are going into battles, then most probably your style is Pagan Black Metal. NORTH come from the old town of Torun in the northern part of Poland and "Na Polach Bitew" ("In The Battlefields" in English) is their already fourth full-length album. There are seven battle hymns in this record and the music is fast furious Black Metal with slight Death Metal touch, similar to the sound of IMMORTAL's "Battles In The North". All lyrics are in Polish but fortunately for those of us outside Poland there is an English translation. There are lots of blasting beats and peeling guitars and no folk elements at all which is untypical for a Pagan band but that's it. The sound production is on a remarkable level - the balance of all instruments is good and even the bass-guitar is audible well enough. NORTH are experienced band and deliver their furious music skillfully and professional. The Metal paganists will find a lot of aural pleasure in "Na Polach Bitew".

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,0

ABSCISS

"Horrorhammer" CD
PEACEVILLE

ABSCISS are a band made up of old scenesters from bands like DEATH and AUTOPSY. Raw punk fuelled Death Metal, recorded where POSSESSED recorded "Seven Churches" album many years ago. I like it, as it is really raw and old school and it has a great sound! It is their 7th album, so I should look out for more of their releases!! Go for it!

Ivailo Tonchev.....8,0



DECAYING FORM

"Chronicles Of Decimation" CD
DAN'S CRYPT

Besides the Tasmanian Devil, Tasmania seems to be home of some pretty brutal Death Metal acts. DECAYING FORM are: Tom Pryer on guitars/vocals and Linton Tuleja on drums. "Chronicles Of Decimation" is their debut CD of ten tracks with extremely long titles and ultra brutal Death Metal. There are no melodies or groovy passages; the music is grinding drumming, merciless riffs and Tom Pryer's deep throat who is making a noise like a bunch of raging Tasmanian devils. Unfortunately despite being brutal, DECAYING FORM are quite monotonous too, there isn't a big difference between

tracks, they all sound almost the same. The production of the guitars' sound also could have been much better. The two guys in DECAYING FORM are good musicians but all they offer is US style of brutal Death Metal that you have heard many times before. Nothing creative or original. But if brutality is the only thing you seek in music - check this one out!

Tsvetan Rachev.....5,0

ANTIGAMA

"Resonance" CD

RELAPSE

The Polish people know how to grind and they grind it good! 17 tracks of insane grind core/crust appear on their debut album for Relapse. You can't help but like this, if you like grind, their heavy sound is surely going to smash your head to the wall. "Barbapex" is a funny instrumental, a bit jazzy like track. I like it too. For fans of NAPALM DEATH, NASUM, DISCORDANCE AXIS...

Ivailo Tonchev.....7,0

VISCERAL BLEEDING

"Absorbing The Disarray" CD

NEUROTIC

VISCERAL BLEEDING can be called without mistake "The Swedish answer to SUFFOCATION". Their third record "Absorbing The Disarray" strikes with eleven audio grenades of intense technical Death Metal, combining elements from the sound of CANNIBAL CORPSE and SUFFOCATION. The rhythm is fast but not monotonous; the rhythm section (Tobias Persson on drums and Calle Lofgren on bass) delivers solid and variable playing. The guitars' sound could have been denser and heavier but that's not a big matter of complaint. Martin Pedersen offers furious vocals, sometimes pronouncing the lyrics impressively fast. The good news is that despite his deep roars, his words are possible to be heard. VISCERAL BLEEDING are damn good instrumentalists who are able to create an interesting and fresh Death Metal record. Check out the tracks "Awakened By Blood" with its catchy chorus or "Disgust The Vile" and break your neck! Recommended to SUFFOCATION fans!

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5

KRONOS

"The Hellenic Terror" CD

XTREEM MUSIC

The French battle machine KRONOS has been created in 1994 and if you decide to pick up this album you will be convinced in their good skill and musicianship, especially the drummer Mike who is a real monster behind the drum kit. "The Hellenic Terror" is actually the third album of KRONOS (not so much for a band with 14 years of history) in their discography and according to the info sheet that we've got it is a mythological conceptual work telling about the creatures of ancient Greece. Well, do not expect to hear something exceptional and unheard, what we have here are 10 tracks of fierce and brutal European Death Metal, vehemently and skillfully performed by mature and devoted musicians. The melodic solos add a good dose of variety but the overall picture cannot be changed - the music is ruthlessly powerful and brutal. A good choice for every brutal Death Metal freak!

Chavdar Tzachkov.....7,0

SHAMRAIN

"Goodbye To All That" CD

SPIKEFARM

Finnish emotionally sounding gothic rock, very much like their fellow countrymen HIM. Good and clear sound, matches perfectly a calm evening at home with a glass of wine and nothing interesting on TV. Think of bands like THE CURE, PORCUPINE TREE, PLACEBO. The album even appeared at the official Finnish charts, so good luck to you, guys!

Ivailo Tonchev.....7,0

IN BATTLE

"Kingdom Of Fear" CD

CANDLELIGHT

IN BATTLE have changed their style a lot during the last few years. Starting as a pure fast Black Metal band they have evolved into smashing Death/Black Metal machine that leaves no survivors on its way. "Kingdom Of Fear" is the fourth IN BATTLE album and the first one for the label of Samoth (EMPEROR) - Nocturnal Art Productions/Candlelight Records. Expect thunderous drumming delivered by Nils Fjellstrom who used to beat the skins for AEON and DARK FUNERAL among others. The shredding guitar riffs are done by Hasse Karlsson from the Swedish DIABOLICAL. Above all are the screams of John Sandin who brings some Thrashy elements in the otherwise straightforward Death/Black Metal of IN BATTLE. I can compare the tunes in "Kingdom Of Fear" with the intense music of ZYKLON or GOD AMONG INSECTS. Most of the time the speed is high with only few exceptions (the slower track "Follow The Allfather" for example). This record has many valuable moments and deserves fans' attention!

Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0

NOMINON

"Terra Necrosis" CD

KONQUEROR

While I'm listening to "Terra Necrosis", I remember SOUL REAPER and their killing second album "Life Eraser". It turns out that NOMINON are also Swedish, having a lot of years behind them - they were formed in 1993. The band is comprised of ex- and present members of IMMENSED IN BLOOD, IN AETERNUM, ALTAR (Swe), IMMENSED SERPENT etc. They are responsible for this high-standard Death Metal which we can feel in this third album of NOMINON. The malicious vocals spit hatred, the guitars parts sound hard and heavy, the drum swaths cut heads! Damn, more than good! I rarely find something I happen to like so much but here it is - a fatal dose of Death Metal is flowing in my veins.

Stefan Stefanov.....8,5



BESTIAL MOCKERY

"Slaying The Life" CD

SEASON OF MIST

They made 54 extra empty tracks on this CD to actually make the songs 66. Well, that sums pretty much everything about this great evil act. 12 fast Black Metal anthems of hate and aggression, done in the early 90s way. This is their first album for the new label, after they recorded 3 albums for OSMOSE. Excellent sound, reminds me a bit the sound of the early KREATOR albums. A good one, if you like satanic Black Metal, done raw and fast. "Black is the night, Metal we fight..." Ah, it has been said and done already...

Ivailo Tonchev.....7,0



THRONEUM / REVELATION OF DOOM

"Total Regression!" Split CD

PAGAN

In this split you can hear two nice Death Metal bands from the Polish Underground scene. Each of them presents itself with two of their own compositions and with several covers. The first ones are THRONEUM with their Blackened Death Metal. They do covers of UNLEASHED, MORGOTH, IMPALED NAZARENE, DESTRUCTION. The second band REVELATION OF DOOM is a young one, but just as good. They also treat with respect cult names from the extreme scene - SODOM, PANDEMONIUM, HELLHAMMER, TERRORIZER, BLASPHEMY. A very good split CD which will bring pleasure to its listeners - play it MAX volume, drink and have fun!

Stefan Stefanov.....7,5

SPETALSK

"Spetalsk" CD

UNEXPLODED Records

Insane Swedish Black Metal, mastered by

Magnus Devo Andersson (MARDUK) at Endarker Studios. It is their first album, following the success of their demo and the EP on NORTHERN SILENCE. If you like raw Scandinavian Black that is the thing for you. Hammering drums, crisp sounding guitars, good production, that are the key points for the genre. SPETALSK make no difference.

Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0

DIABLO SWING ORCHESTRA

"The Butcher's Ballroom" CD

CANDLELIGHT

Oh, not ANOTHER NIGHTWISH clone band, that was my first thought. And I hated myself for this, seconds after the first 2 songs ended. Great and fresh new kind of Metal, a mixture of Metal, Jazz, opera styled singing, psychobilly. I loved it and it was interesting to read the amazing story about the origin of their name. Since this is their first album, I wish them good luck and I want to thank them for the lovely minutes spent listening to the CD.

Ivailo Tonchev.....9,0

ASRAI

"Pearls In Dirt" CD

SEASON OF MIST

Modern sounding gothic rock by one of the older Dutch bands. Formed in the 80s, their first album came as early as 1997. This is their third, for a new label again. Powerful modern gothic, wonderful female vocals, reminding a bit about SIOUXSIE AND THE BANSHEES. And there is a certain Metal touch that only consolidates the stuff and makes it more interesting for the ears of the new gothic fans.

Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0

GORYPIC

"From Blast To Collapse" CD

Self-Released

Titles like "Stupid Spoiled Whores" and "Malformed Pig Fetus" should speak



enough - this is not happy sing-a-long Heavy Metal. This is brutal, ugly, relentless Death Metal. And last but not least-technical one! GORYPTIC come from France and "From Blast To Collapse" is their debut album. Strangely enough the band doesn't have a label but I guess this is their choice-the guys are doing their merchandise and booking by themselves which deserves respect. Musically GORYPTIC are in the league of CRYPTOPSY and DYING FETUS - they know how to play fast and complex and they have that deep growling vocals that at places transfer into piggish squeals. Not that it is something unique but is well-done and have some enjoyable moments. There is a drum'n'bass remix of the above mentioned "Malformed Pig Fetus" which appealed to me a lot-good decision guys! For a debut "From Blast To Collapse" is above average and promises big future for GORYPTIC. If US style Death Metal is your cup of blood-definitely check this band out!

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5

BLAKAGIR

"Carpathian Art Of Sin" CD

PULVERISED

I love such stuff. Inspired by the old tales and the mysticism of the Carpathian lands, this Polish one - man bands takes you on a journey through time and space. Epic medieval neo classical music, no vocals, intense, just like a good horror movie soundtrack. This is actually a project of L.O.N., HELVETTO fame.

Ivailo Tonchev.....7,0

DISGORGE

"Gore Blessed To The Worms" CD

XTREEM MUSIC

No one was sure about the future of the Mexican DISGORGE after the departure of their front man Antimo but here they are again with their fourth full-length album "Gore Blessed The Worms". Don't expect anything different than nasty, disgusting and obscene Death/Grindcore. The album

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RECORDS

starts with a piano intro which after a while transcends into the grinding gore blast of "I Watch Myself Rot". Double vocal attacks, dense riffs and destructive drumming is what you'll find here. The production is raw and unpolished but decent enough not to be irritating. The music is straightforward and aggressive CARCASS-worshiping Death/Grind. No need to analyze each track, you'll either love "Gore Blessed The Worms" or you'll hate it, there is no other way. Which side are you on? Check out for yourself! Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5

MOONSORROW

"V. Havittetty" CD
SPIKEFARM
Hmm, quite an ambitious creation having in mind that "V. Havittetty" has two tracks only which last about one hour... Whatever, MOONSORROW are here again with their fifth long-length opus. The tracks are long and complicated and the listener should listen to them several times to feel and understand them better. Just like the previous album "Vervysakeet" (2005) the folk motives are not so bright, giving way to a dark epical sounding. This, however, is not an obstacle for the album to become the next masterpiece from the discography of the Finnish quintet. It's obvious that this dark feeling is present in the lyrics - they're entirely in the native language. I'm not sure that this is gonna be your favorite MOONSORROW album because the previous ones are just perfect, but... why not?... I doubt that I'll ever be disappointed with this amazingly talented band. You too! Stefan Stefanov.....8,5

IMPALED NAZARENE

"Manifest" CD
OSMOSE
The Goat is among us again and is administering justice. In the name of Satan, IMPALED NAZARENE are back again with their jubilee tenth album in their seventeen-year career. The Finns are gonna crush you with no mercy with these sixteen (!) tracks - a high form of Nuclear Metal where Punk, Thrash, Rock, Black Metal are combined... As strong as the previous album - "Pro Patria Finlandia", "Manifest" will be a real entertainment for the fans of the band and not them only. Mika is cynical enough again, his voice is in perfect shape and he is shouting as if he's mad. No doubt, pure madness. With amazing time duration of little less than fifty minutes, this is the longest creation of IMPALED NAZARENE. I was very impressed by the change of the logo but it can be easily gone through - the headbanging and mind-obsessive music is more important! The unique style starting from "Latex Cult" has now reached its apogee. I think there is nothing more to say, the fans should hear "Manifest" by all means and evaluate its merits by themselves, which are not little at all. So, let's fucking die, bastards! A-a-aargghh-h... Stefan Stefanov.....10

ORENDA

"The Funeral" CD
NO COLOURS
It is a real pleasure to present this CD, as ORENDA come from Bulgaria. Ex-members of BREEDING BLACK, this is their second album and it is nothing but 4 tracks and 34 minutes of painful Black Metal, done the early 90s way. No gothic sounding keyboards, no trendy stories about vampires and stuff, just pain and suffering, revealed in the true old school manner. Get it, these guys need your support! Ivailo Tonchev.....9,0

MAN MUST DIE

"The Human Condition" CD
RELAPSE
MAN MUST DIE are young and prosperous band from Scotland. They were noticed by Relapse Records and the result is this

album which is second for the band after the debut "Start Killing" from 2004. "The Human Condition" is a solid modern Death Metal record with influences from bands like MESHUGGAH, DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN, some IN FLAMES-like moments and furious angry vocals. MAN MUST DIE include in their music some Thrash and Metalcore elements so their sound isn't one-dimensional. No wonder they have managed to sign with Relapse - obviously this type of playing is quite popular in the USA these days. MAN MUST DIE are good musicians but "The Human Condition" sounds to me like something I have heard before somewhere else. Another weak point is the weak sound of the drums compared with the other instruments. Not a bad record but nothing special either. In case you like the bands that are in Relapse's catalogue, then give this one an ear too. Maybe MAN MUST DIE are your next favourite band Tsvetan Rachev.....7,0

UPRISE

"Uprise" CD
SHINDY
This actually reminds me of the late 80s classic NAPALM DEATH material and I guess that was the intention of the band members. Founded by previous members of CONTRASTIC, INTERVALL BIZZARE, AHUMANDO GRANUJO, ALIENATION MENTAL, 8 tracks in 15 minutes, this is nothing but Czech grind core at its finest. There is a cover by S.O.D. ("United Forces") and a video track hidden inside the release. It's a pity it is so short... Ivailo Tonchev.....7,0

IMPERIOUS MALEVOLENCE

"Where Demons Dwell" CD
EVIL HORDE
Here we have another representatives of the enormous Brazilian Death Metal scene. IMPERIOUS MALEVOLENCE released their fourth album "Where Demons Dwell" and bash hard the organized religion with twelve pieces of blasphemous grinding Death Metal. Their music reminds a lot of the diabolical tunes of the Polish masters BEHEMOTH - it has blasting drumming, piercing riffs and vocals that remind me of Nergal (BEHEMOTH)'s voice. HATE ETERNAL has also been an influence for IMPERIOUS MALEVOLENCE - in some technical passages the Brazilians sound like Erik Rutan and Co. "Where Demons Dwell" requires some time to get into it - the music is complex and at places chaotic and isn't the easiest thing to listen to. Lyricwise the band is spitting

on Christianity and the religious dogmas. Nothing extraordinary in this record but it isn't bad at all and deserves some time spend on it. Brazilian Death Metal rages on! Tsvetan Rachev.....7,0

BENIGHTED

"Icon" CD
OSMOSE
BENIGHTED are one of my absolute favourites from the French extreme scene! Their fifth album "Icon" (an abbreviation for Infinite Conscience Of Nothingness) is again a total blast of high-quality Death/Grind with influences from many other styles. Those Frenchmen are excellent musicians and most of all they are open-minded persons since they are not afraid to experiment with music. There is something for everyone in "Icon" - brutal Death/Grind, heavy moshing breakdowns, Thrash/Crossover passages and even some slight rapping in the third track "Grind Wit". All those elements are mixed together in a perfect way and the result is crushing! Tracks like "Slut", "Saw It All" and "Human Circles" (where guest vocalist is Jagger from the mighty DISBELIEF) are able to break your neck to pieces. The musicianship is excellent, especially the drumming skills of Kevin who is the newbie in BENIGHTED and "Icon" is his first recording with the band. Of course on the frontline are the extremely various and brutal vocals of Julien Truchan who has an undeniable talent for using his throat in the most extreme way possible. Another merit of the album are the lyrics - Julien is working in a psychiatric hospital and his writing is inspired by his own professional experience. The info-sheet says that "Icon" is a concept album about the slow falling into psychosis of one man and every track is telling stories about his life. Quite interesting if you ask me. The sound production of the German Kohlekeller Studio is excellent and leaves nothing more to be deserved. Enough words said, if you haven't already listened to this album do it immediately if you consider yourself a Death Metal fan. BENIGHTED are one of the best from France and "Icon" is a feast for every extremist's ears. Tsvetan Rachev.....10

BLOODY SIGN

"Explosion of Four Elements" CD
IBEX MOON
"Explosion of Four Elements" is the second

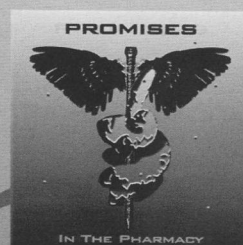
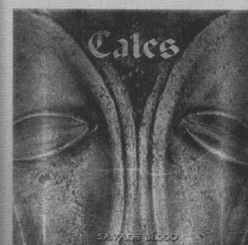
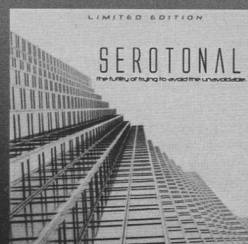
full-length album of France's BLOODY SIGN. The band is being released by Ibox Moon Records which is the label of John McEntee from INCANTATION. Having that fact in mind we can expect nothing less than a darkened Death Metal band and we will not go wrong in this case. BLOODY SIGN are influenced by INCANTATION in their blasting drumming and ominous riffs. Moments reminding of IMMOLATION are also present in "Explosion of Four Elements" as well as some Nordic Black Metal passages. BLOODY SIGN pay tribute to the French Metal veterans MASSACRA by covering their track "Apocalyptic Warriors". The guys have the proper instrumental skills but unfortunately they lack fresh and innovative ideas. "Explosion of Four Elements" is an average Death Metal record that just can't stand out in today's overflowing extreme Metal market. But listen to it anyway and decide for yourselves. Tsvetan Rachev.....6,0

PUISSANCE

"Grace Of God" CD
EQUILIBRIUM MUSIC
First album for their new label for the Swedish neo classical/industrial masters PUISSANCE. Very dark and roomy gothic sound, that is a key point for the new production. Their first album since 2004 sounds expectedly fresh and if you have been tired of the neoclassical trend, listen to this album; you will change your mind. Ivailo Tonchev.....8,5

ION

"Madre, Protegenos" CD
EQUILIBRIUM
"Madre Protegenos" (Mother Protect Us) can maybe be classified into the "world music" category, but after all, it is also a kind of doom influenced stuff, as it is Mr. Duncan Patterson (ANATHEMA/ ANTIMATTER) that's inside. Ethereal folk music of the new millennium, influenced by the past and music from different regions and places. You can hear tambouras, mandolinas and many kinds of percussion instruments and the beautiful voices of the vocalists - 6 different ones. I love it! It's the second spin of the CD and I still love every second of it. Ivailo Tonchev.....10



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ECHOSILENCE

"Distorted Horizon" CD

NAILBOARD

One of the finest progressive rock / metal bands that I have heard in ages and hey, this comes from Estonia. Their first ever release after the demo in 1997, 4 tracks, 30 minutes and I think I like all songs a lot. Technical and well-played, loads of jazzy tunes and some other interesting influences come to mind, when you listen to it for the second time. After the 3rd time you hear it, it is already inside your head. I must confess they have done a simple and cheap, yet a very effective and beautiful cover. Wanna know more? Order it!

Ivailo Tonchev.....9,0

GRAVELAND

"Will Stronger Than Death" CD

NO COLOURS

If we start talking about Pagan/Black Metal, there's no way for me to miss GRAVELAND, one of the oldest names in the genre. The project starts from 1992 as Black Metal but later on it transforms into Pagan Black Metal. Behind all this stays the name of Rob Darken (LORD WIND) - he's the guy who performs all the vocals and instruments. And here we have a jubilee album - "Will Stronger Than Death" is the tenth full-length creation in the solid discography of this one-man project. Don't expect any change in the unique style - this is undoubtedly 100% GRAVELAND. So, if you like the previous albums, you will surely enjoy this one, too. Total Underground, what else...

Stefan Stefanov.....7,0

CUBENSIS

3 track MCD

CUBENSIS Records

One of the most beautiful covers and one of the most "I've heard it somewhere else, but I'm not sure where" bands. Highly similar to SOULFLY and KORN. They come from France and surely have the guts to change my opinion, let's give them a chance!

Ivailo Tonchev.....3,0

MURK

"Unholy Presences" CD

NO COLOURS

Another one-man project, this time from Italy. The music of MURK is dark, even depressing. And it has mysterious lyrics. The creature which stays behind this all has the mysterious pseudonym Io. I should tell you that this Io did well his deeds and he has created a good Black Metal album which I listen to with such a pleasure. "Unholy Presences" is the first and the only thing in MURK's discography. The artwork pleases me too and it is in a perfect unison with the album mood. A good start, so we impatiently expect the next sound acts of the band. I'm slowly falling in the pool of darkness and I am disappearing in the absolute mind obscurity...

Stefan Stefanov.....6,0

SATANIC

WARMMASTER

"Revelation" MCD

NO COLOURS

I have the chance to make a review release of SATANIC WARMMASTER again. This is the serial EP in the swollen of full-length albums, splits, EP's and even a live album discography of this one-man project (behind all this stays Nazgul - vocals, all instruments). "Revelation" contains three tracks plus intro. A Pure Black Metal from Finland. Shall I tell you more or this was enough?!

Stefan Stefanov.....6,5



BLACK RAVEN

"The Day Of The Raven" CD

BLACK RAVEN Records

Classic 80's metal with screaming vocals and "Live for metal" attitude. Very similar to the early 80's JUDAS PRIEST, very tight and crisp production, as well as a great cover! It is

great that bands like BLACK RAVEN release themselves and deliver such quality albums to the hungry for more metal audiences.

Ivailo Tonchev.....5,0

DIABOLIC FORCE

"Old School Attack" CD

NO COLOURS

No Colours Records do release everything their eyes meet. Even bands like this. To laugh or to cry...?! DIABOLIC FORCE is the new Thrash "sensation" which claims and tries to play in the style of '80's. As many others - primitive, mainstream, rude... The three unscrupulous drunks with funny nicknames come from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This CD contains a demo and an EP which is the only band release so far. There is more to wish for and there isn't enough originality. The song lyrics are so naive as they have been written by a fifth class schoolboy (read the lyrics of the title "Old School Attack" and you'll understand!). The only nice surprise comes in the end of the CD as the last track "Massacra" is actually a cover version of THE OTHER SIDE (does anyone remember them? I do!).

Stefan Stefanov.....4,0

SHADOW'S FAR

"11 Sins" CD

STONEPATH Records

11 great tracks of technical Thrash, not unlike their fellow countrymen, the legendary CORONER. Fast and melodic, with many well played breaks, excellent production and mastering and even the cover is quite catchy! It looks as if its their 10th album, not their first. This band got under my skin.

Ivailo Tonchev.....7,0

AVA INFERI

"The Silhouette" CD

SEASON OF MIST

Doom Metal with Gothic atmosphere is definitely not my favourite thing so I was quite sceptical about this CD. One look at AVA INFERI's line-up made things much more interesting - the guitar player is Rune Eriksen aka Blasphemer from the mighty MAYHEM. "The Silhouette" is the second offering of this band and here you will find nine pieces of dreamy and emotional Doom Metal. All vocals are performed by the talented Carmen Simoes (a session vocalist for MOONSPELL either) whose voice is very pleasant and relaxing. The compositions are calm and gentle, showing one very different side of Blasphemer's huge talent. "The Silhouette" has nothing in common with MAYHEM or any Black Metal at all, this music has to be listened and felt in solitude. I'm not a big fan of this genre but I can't deny the quality of AVA INFERI. If Doom/Gothic is your thing - definitely check this out!

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,0



CRYNIGHT

"Intra Tenebrae" CD

CRYNIGHT Records

This CD compiles the 4 tracks of the new material by CRYNIGHT and their first and only demo from 2004. You can easily hear the progress, from the last 5 edgy thrash tracks to the sophisticated "Intra Tenebrae" material. But overall, it is Thrash/Death metal, coming from a place like Spain. Very good production, reminds me of the early SEPULTURA stuff, especially the drums. MY sincere respect...

Ivailo Tonchev.....7,0

PUTRIDITY

"Mental Prolapse Induces Necrophilism" CD

PERMEATED Records

This must be one of the most brutal bands that have ever emerged from Italy. PUTRIDITY are three crazy Italians - Ciccio (guitars/vocals), Alessandro (bass) and the x-CORPSEFUCKING ART drummer Paolo - who unleash upon mankind their long-titled debut "Mental Prolapse Induces Necrophilism". First thing that makes impression is the cover artwork - its author is John Zig who is well-known artist among the fans of brutal Death Metal. So the

lay-out is ok but what about the music? PUTRIDITY play intense brutal Death Metal in the US style inspired by MORTICIAN and DEVOUERMENT. The riffs are simple, the drums are blasting and the vocals...well let's just say that you can't understand a single word from all this grunting and gurgling. The lyrics don't need a special explanation - titles like "Molesting Vomited Decapitation" and "Zombie Oral Sex" should speak enough. This album is brutal beyond all doubt but the big problem is that there is nothing memorable or interesting besides the well-known brutality. An average record that is nothing more than the next fierce Death Metal release.

Tsvetan Rachev.....6,0

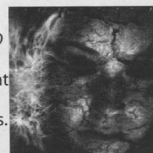
LIGHTNING

"Filthy Human Beings" CD

XTREEM MUSIC

Spanish Death Metal that sounds like the Swedish bands from the early 90's. Catchy melodies, many breaks, perfect studio sounds - just a few of the trademarks that made it big...many years ago. But it is 2008, actually! Still I spent some nice 40 minutes, listening to it. Brought back so many memories.

Ivailo Tonchev.....5,0



EBONMORTIS

"Reconstruction By Force" CD

ROTTING CORPSE

Records

Promising debut album from this band hailing from Hammond, Indiana. EBONMORTIS play melodic mix of Death and Black Metal with slight Metalcore touches that are so popular among the new US Metal bands. The vocalist with the funny nickname - Cuntry is changing skillfully deep growls with higher hysterical screams. The riffs are shredding throughout the whole record and the drumming is very good performed. EBONMORTIS can compete easily with the highlights of modern US Metal-bands like DARKEST HOUR, AS I LAY DYING, BLACK DAHLIA MURDER...The sound is on a very good level, there is nothing to complain about in this direction. "Reconstruction By Force" is an album with quality above average so the only thing that those guys will need is luck. Hopefully they will have such one and their name will be heard by many.

Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0



PEDIGREE

"Growing Apart" CD

NAILBOARD

It reminds me a bit of the early GODFLESH, mixed with some PEARL JAM. And believe it or not, this comes from Estonia... This is most of all a metal album, but with lots of mechanics and industrial elements. It doesn't really stand for anything fresh or original and even starts to get boring after the 5th song. But as this is their first album, I believe they will develop! Good luck, guys...

Ivailo Tonchev.....5,0

REVELATION OF DOOM

"Shemhamforash" CD

PAGAN

Pagan Records, black and white cover with an inverted cross on it, title like "Shemhamforash"... this should be the next satanic Metal squad from Poland. REVELATION OF DOOM punish our ears with their second effort of blasphemous Death Metal in the vein of old MORBID ANGEL, VADER and ACHERON. The drummer Amon (also in the grinders PYORRHOEA) is beating the skins like a possessed maniac - the tempo is grinding almost all the time. REVELATION OF DOOM have new vocalist in their ranks - Analripper who is insanely screaming his pro-satanic lyrics. There are some Thrashy elements in "Shemhamforash" (hear for example "From Metal To Hell" and "The Goatwhore") that



DYING

"Ill Intentions For A Bloody Supper" promo

CD-R

Self-released

DYING come from the sunny lands of Sevilla, Spain and "Ill Intentions For A Bloody Supper" is their third demo record. It contains two pieces of brutal Death Metal influenced by US bands like DEEDS OF FLESH, SUFFOCATION, BROKEN HOPE...The sound is very good for a demo recording and should attract the attention of labels like United Guttur for instance. The two tracks in this demo offer blasting drumming, heavy riffs and deep grunting throat-nothing more, nothing less. DYING are recording new album at the moment so if US Death Metal is your stuff, look out for it!

Tsvetan Rachev

ARHONT

Promo 2006 CD-R

Self-released

2 tracks are featured on this promo CD, no picture, no additional info. ARHONT started as a studio project in June 2005 as a result of music collaboration between Batskin and Sakh... And the country is Macedonia. Two years after and their first album is already a fact, released on Battlegod Records, famous for stuff like BALTAK. Intense Death Metal, with obviously occult topics. Check out the new album, might be much better!

Ivailo Tonchev

GOVERNMENTAL

"Crucifixion" promo CD-R

Self-released

4 tracks of boring and monotonous grind core, badly recorded and lacking fresh ideas. I can't even make any difference between the tracks. Well, it isn't that BAD to start with, but you guys must progress, grind is not only banging and shouting... or at least it used to be like 20 years ago. Wake up, it is 2008. I know you can do.

Ivailo Tonchev

HAMMER

"Ready Motherfucker" promo CD-R

Self-released

Screaming vocals, primitive sound and song structures, the press release says it is NWOBHM. Hey guys, the new wave of British Heavy Metal didn't really sound that sloppy. I would love to see these guys live; the tracks are full of so much energy and passion. But the recordings on this CD are very basic, the screaming vocals are too annoying at certain places, the harmonica parts in the last song remind me of AC/DC. But they also sound a bit out of place... The Hammer didn't hit me hard enough, but I'll be looking forward to more info about this band. Guys, keep me updated.

Ivailo Tonchev

PANTHEON

"Dead Or Alive" promo CD-R

Self-released

I don't like the way you recorded your tracks, let's take it straight to the point. Messy, unclear vocals and pretty generic sound that spoils your great mixture of technical Thrash and Heavy Metal. And the drum parts at the end of the second track...awful. You should really think of a better studio that will expose your music to the audience.

Ivailo Tonchev

RIGOR MORTIS

3 Tracks Promo CD-R

Self-released

Crazy and wild Thrash from Japan. It is really fast and primitive, reminds me of the Japanese Thrash/HC scene 25 years ago. Bands like CONFUSE, GAL...not really Metal, but more Punk/HC orientated. I would like to hear more, ok? 3 tracks and only 11 minutes is not enough for me!

Ivailo Tonchev

bring variety into the solid Death Metal wall of sound. This record is for all oldschool fanatics who are breaking their necks over the first albums of MORBID ANGEL and DEICIDE. REVELATION OF DOOM may never reach the level of VADER or BEHEMOTH but they will find their audience for sure.

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,0

MUST MISSA

"Martyrs Of Wrath" CD

NAILBOARD

Welcome to the old school kingdom. This is their third album, so you should know what to expect – solid blackened Thrash, hate fuelled. It has been their trademark ever since their beginning in 1996. This band includes a lot of old scenesters from many Estonian bands. Sound interesting...

Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0

SCARPOINT

"The Silence We Deserve" CD

BLIND PROPHECY

Strong Swedish Death Metal, produced by Daniel Bergstrand (IN FLAMES, MESHUGGAH) and highly likely to remind me to MESHUGGAH. Very modern stuff, loads of nu Metal breaks, not really my kind of thing. But the production is excellent!

Ivailo Tonchev.....5,0

CLOSER

"Darkness In Me" MCD

PULVERISED

If you look at the back cover of this promo CD you'll see five guys dressed like gangsters. What kind of music are they playing? Awesome melodic Death Metal, that's it! There are only three tracks in "Darkness In Me" but they all sound inspiring and interesting. CLOSER's music is rooted in Swedish "Gothenburg" Death Metal sound with influences from IN FLAMES, ARCH ENEMY, DARK TRANQUILITY, SOILWORK... The band has melodic and heavy riffs, brilliant rhythm section and the voice of the frontman Andreas Melberg that reminds a lot of Anders Friden (IN FLAMES) screams. The production of this CD is on a very good level, the sound is professionally made and every instrument sounds crystal clear. The only weak point is that CLOSER's music sounds too close to the above mentioned Gothenburg bands, there are passages that suspiciously remind of ARCH ENEMY and IN FLAMES. But leaving that aside CLOSER are one very talented band and if melodic Swedish Death Metal is your style, you will love them!

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5

THE OLD DEAD TREE

"The Water Fields" CD

SEASON OF MIST

Often compared to PARADISE LOST or OPETH, the band presents 11 tracks of gothic ridden modern Metal, coming from Spain. If this is what you like, get this. Very fresh 3rd album by this Spanish band.

Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0

SCORCHED EARTH

"Devils In Iron" CD

CONQUEROR WYRM Records

Take the bestial aggression of MARDUK, the dirty sound of DARKTHRONE, the rock'n'roll groove of MOTORHEAD, add a few parts Doom for taste and you will have one hell of a meal – the third album of Seattle's Death/Black Metal force SCORCHED EARTH. "Devils In Iron" gives us eight pieces pure oldschool spite with raw and unpolished sound. The band is gathered around Terry McCorriston (known from his one-man project NAZGUL) whose dry screams remind of Tom Warrior (CELTIC FROST)'s voice. The music emits primal energy and hardly will leave anyone unimpressed. SCORCHED EARTH play pure Metal without fairy female voices or majestic keyboard symphonies. The band is able to sound interesting and to keep your attention throughout the whole album. Tracks like "Scorched Earth, Black Wind And Hell Fire", the MOTORHEAD-like "Gargoyles Eye" and "Scorched Earth Armageddon" will make

the blood of every oldschool headbanger to boil! "Devils In Iron" deserves your time so give it a listen if you need some good and pure Metal.

Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0

MY OWN GRAVE

"Unholy" MCD

PULVERISED

16 minutes and 5 tracks of fast Black/Death Metal, performed by great musicians with some top studio production. No wonder the band comes from Sweden; guys there know how to do Metal and to do it good! This is their first EP, after their first long play... Interesting.

Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0

MEMORIA

"The Midnight Ball" CD

DEATH BY DAWN

It is nothing but good and solid Goth rock, enriched by...guess...Spanish guitar. The combination of the two works really well in the case of MEMORIA. Hypnotic melodies, medieval atmosphere, all that matches perfectly the beautiful digipack. Hurry and order it, before it is too late.

Ivailo Tonchev.....7,0

KULT

"Winds Of War" CD

DEBEMUR MORTI

This album is really capable to cause the Third World War, but now only inside my sanity. KULT is the new name that crawled up from the depths of Italian Underground. I mean a Black Metal project where two dark persons stay behind. They created "Winds Of War" – a good debut, recorded in Alpha & Omega Studio (ANCIENT, MORTUARY DRAPE). Accidentally or not, Aphazel from ANCIENT helped with recording the guitar parts of the album without being a real member of KULT. A good collaboration and the result is this cold and gloomy creation. Don't expect to hear keyboards or female chants, but only pure and apocalyptic Black Metal, fulfilled with the expected skill and rage. You'll find out the rest if you read the interview with KULT in this issue. The war is near...

Stefan Stefanov.....8,0

SNUFFGRINDER

"Snuffhollic" CD

APATHIC VIEW

I do not know why people find "snuff" stuff so exciting. Then I read the back cover and I got it. It is not about snuff movies, but about tobacco and allsnuffers around the world. Fast grindcore, mixed with electronic breakbeats and tekno. It is not Metal or Metal related in anyway, more like music you can make at home, giving life to some of your more extreme fantasies. This album failed to make me a snuffhollic, but I guess my neighbours didn't enjoy it very much, so that always adds 2 points more.

Ivailo Tonchev.....5,0

SARPANITUM

"Despoilment Of Origin" CD

GALACTIC RECORDS

SARPANITUM should be put in one category with NILE. They are just like their clones, but have their own identity and originality. Instead of ancient Egypt, this young British band is inspired by ancient Mesopotamia – Babylon, Sumeria, Akkadia... The deeply mythological lyrics are mixed with titanic Death Metal – extreme and sometimes epic. For a first album, this is an amazing start for the quartet from Birmingham. No doubt this is one of the best bands from the United Kingdom which I have listened and reviewed. I wish SARPANITUM luck and I hope they will soon make a new album! Until then – listen to "Despoilment Of Origin"! It's worth it!

Stefan Stefanov.....7,0

SANCTUM

"Sanctum"

Self-released

This well recorded and released album presents 6 tracks of heavily METALLICA influenced American Metal. Think of the

early 90s sound of the Metal Kings and add some more DANZIG like vocals and sound and here you have it...SANCTUM. Though it is not very original, it is worth hearing.

Ivailo Tonchev.....5,0

ABORTION

"The Gonzo Music" CD

OBSCENE

Once I opened the plastic bag and saw who released it, I knew what to expect. It is one of the most devoted to Underground labels, yet one of the most predictable in terms of featured music. Hammering grind core from Slovakia. You've heard it hundreds of times, yet it is still interesting. Respect to the guys and the label.

Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0

FURZE

"UTD" CD

CANDLELIGHT

The abstract satanic art finds its way of expression through Black Metal from Norway. Quite primitive crazy and coldly played by the way. The sound is primitive and raw which is gonna be highly evaluated by the fans of the rude and misanthropical Black Metal. This is the third album from the discography one-man project. The album is separated into two parts, each containing four tracks which are pure madness. The fans who are gonna like and evaluate correctly the merits of "UTD", are not many. I'm not sure that you're gonna be the same after hearing this.

Stefan Stefanov.....6,0

STOLEN BABIES

"There Be Squabbles Ahead" CD

ASCENDANCE

Imagine FAITH NO MORE hooked with the early 80s USA HC band THE ACCUSED, mix it with some punk and cabaret music, beautiful female vocals, unexpected breaks and amazing keys. This is certainly not the average stuff and you can't avoid liking it. That's it. Said.

Ivailo Tonchev.....10

HACAVITZ

"Katun" CD

MORIBUND

I haven't heard the debut album of HACAVITZ "Venganza" but now I'm going to tell you something about this Mexican band. It was formed after the splitting-up of the Death Metal bands DOMAIN and RAVAGER. The main people, Antimo Buonnano (BLOODREAPING, DEMONIZED, ex-DISGORGE) and Oscar Garcia (DEMONIZED) form HACAVITZ – a Death/Black Metal project. Half of the team that recorded "Venganza" has left the band, so "Katun" is a creation of just two of its founders. Speed, raw sounding and incomprehensible screams – this is hardly enough to understand what you're going to hear, but I would explain it like that. A real sound of chaos... The drums are heard best, I guess. The album ends with the bonus track "Hunger Of The Undead" – cover of DARK ANGEL.

Stefan Stefanov.....6,0

ZWARTKETTERIJ

"Cult Of The Necro-Thrasher" CD

DISPLEASED

This could not be a serious band. Sounds like a joke among members of Dutch bands such as CIRITH GORGOR and GRIMM take part in it. The style is a mixture between Thrash and the 80's Heavy Metal with Black Metal elements. Just read the lyrics of "Heavy Metal, Raise Hell!" or "Lick My Chainsaw, Bitch!" and you're gonna laugh on their childish naivety whole day, he-he. This CD didn't get me, but that's how I see things!

Stefan Stefanov.....5,0

OBSCURE TORTURE

"Worship The Beast" CD

TIME BEFORE TIME

This CD also reminds me of the early HELL HAMMER, 2 tracks, over 8 minutes each,

VAVEYLA

"Abandoned Like a Lighthouse" CD-R

Insomniac Production

Turkish Death/Doom metal with loads of folk rhythms and influences. I love Eastern music for these great mixtures of ancient tunes and modern rhythms. Given the proper management and the good studio, these guys might be big! Watch out...

Ivailo Tonchev

HUMAN GROUND

Demo 2004 CD-R

Self-released

Only three tracks with one of the better demo sounds I have heard for this issue of the magazine. Fast Thrash Metal from Estonia with one of the harshest female vocals, performed by Pille Rand. The band that actually comes to mind is BOLT THROWER and their early stuff. Especially the sound of the bass guitars. I wonder what has happened to this band, since this is already 4 years old and this time is a lot for the international Metal community. Hope they are working on new material, as they have the chance to do something big.

Ivailo Tonchev

TEURGIA

"A Veg Utjan" demo CD-R

Self-released

This is one of the better demo CDs that we have received for this issue. Good production and packaging, intense Black Metal with some Death Metal breaks of unexpected frenzy and speed. Somebody give them a contract, it is surely a band to make something bigger.

Ivailo Tonchev

SIXONEOSIX

"God Told Me" promo CD-R

Self-released

God told me "Don't fall asleep, Tonchev". Monotonous Swedish heavy metal with many modern elements that are supposed to make it commercial, I like the doom touches, but overall, it is not something too special. Good production, though!

Ivailo Tonchev

APOSTLES OF PERVERSION

"Intracranial Hypertension" DEMO

Self-released

I didn't expect to come across a Death Metal band from the Canary Islands but here they are: APOSTLES OF PERVERSION from the sunny Spanish islands. And look at that: their drummer's name is Jesus so thing are getting more and more interesting. The three tracks in "Intracranial Hypertension" are in the painfully well-known US Death Metal style carrying the mark of SUFFOCATION, DEEDS OF FLESH, DYING FETUS, etc. APOSTLES OF PERVERSION don't come up with anything you haven't heard before but at least the sound of the demo is with good quality. In case you are curious to know how an extreme band from the Canary Islands may sound-convert the band at: www.apostlesofperversion.com

Tsvetan Rachev

INSIDE

"Hellish Hate Holocaust" Demo CD-R

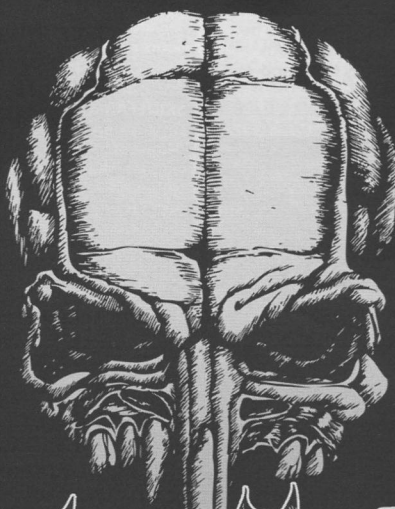
Self Released

INSIDE are the consecutive proof that cold and grim Black Metal can exist in countries without winter. This band comes from Malaysia and "Hellish Hate Holocaust" is their one and only demo recording. The four tracks in it are raw and unpolished Black Metal influenced by legends in the genre like IMPALED NAZARENE, IMMORTAL, GORGOROTH, MARDUK... "Hellish Hate Holocaust" has its own dark charisma and total Underground attitude. Those among us who are into ugly, extreme and uncompromising Black Metal will appreciate the music of INSIDE. I don't know if the band is still active but their demo is worth hearing. Open your beer and enjoy the Hellish Hate Holocaust coming through your speakers.

Tsvetan Rachev



From The Hatred Inventors Of chaos
"VAGRANT MATTER HERITAGE"
A MACABRE ELITISTIC REVOLT



Satanochio
Vagrant Matter Heritage

It's sad that some good bands from Eastern Countries are little-known in the rest of Europe.
A band like Satanochio with this EP merits to be known accross the world and the rest of Europe!
Metaleum

11/14 Legacy 10/10 Metalhead 0.84/1 Kogaionon 4/5 Metaleum



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www.myspace.com/satanochio

www.twilight13media.com
www.myspace.com/twilight13media

TWILIGHT
MEDIA

slow and not too well recorded Doom / Black Metal. This is their first release after the demo in 2005 and should not be judged too harshly, I believe they will learn to record properly and we can expect more from this Danish band.
Ivailo Tonchev.....5,0

VANMAKT

"Vredskapta Mörkersagor" CD
PULVERISED
I played VANMAKT and fell into their music... And what happens? Armageddon of Sound from an extreme and satanic Black Metal, fulfilled with the necessary malice and aggression. It really blows my head. Quite a good debut album which represents this Swedish pure hatred towards Christianity and their love to the Horned one. Originally played and good sounding – that's important to mark about "Vredskapta Mörkersagor". I'm listening to the album already tenth time. Another good band from the catalogue of Pulverised Records. I think that a new satanic era comes, but we'll see! ...
Stefan Stefanov.....8,0



NECRONOCLAST

"The Plague" CD
MORIBUND
What a sinister artwork in good synchronization with the album's title. And the music is from those ones that are not for everybody. It seems that it's called Suicidal Black Metal and you will think of negative things while listening to it and then you will fall in depression and even may try to kill yourselves. And this means that Greg Edwards (guitar, vocals, drum programming) did the things good and created a not bad album. This one-man project comes not from any other place but just from Scotland. The first dose sound terror "Monument" and the present "The Plague" have been released in 2007 which is an undeniable proof about Greg's creativity. There are 7 tracks here – cold and oppressing Black Metal which is slow by principle but sometimes it bursts with an extreme speed. Nightmarish and sick vocal outrages give negative influence to the listener's good mood...and that's gorgeous, isn't it?!!
Stefan Stefanov.....6,5

THRONEUM

"Decade of Necrostuprumal Madness" CD
DEATHGASM
Blackened Death Metal from Poland. This is actually a compilation of many releases – "The Last Morque" 7" EP, "Streams of Aggression" 7" EP and the splits with REBELLION, NUNSLAUGHTER, DEVLRY, LORD BLASPHEMER, INCRIMINATED and 5 unreleased tracks. This is one of the most extreme Polish bands I have heard for this issue, loads of variety with the quality of the studio sound, but the hammering drums and the shouting angry vocals seem to be everywhere. Get it, if you like fast Death Metal, on the border to Black Metal and Grind at certain songs.
Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0

THARAPHITA

"Ildsetel Sunkjatel Radadel" CD
NAILBOARD
It is always a pleasure to me to hear THARAPHITA – one of the oldest Pagan Black Metal bands of the Estonian scene. This fourth album is an original return to the roots and the lyrics are all Estonian. In contrast to the previous album, now the vocals are typical Black Metal screams – stuff that I evaluate. The seven tracks sound perfect, so, generally I don't have any censors in this review. Another strong album for THARAPHITA, and a real sound pleasure to their fans. There will be no disappointed fans – I guarantee!
Stefan Stefanov.....9,0



BLACK CRUCIFIXION

"Promethean Gift" CD
SOULSELLER
SOULSELLER decided to re-release the second mini LP of the band that came out in 1992 and remained a mystery for many years, as nobody re-released it. But here it is now, 4 tracks of evil and slow Black Metal from the dawn of the Scandinavian scene. And wait, there are 4 more tracks, demos from 1991 – 1996, that haven't been released until now. The song from 1996 sounds really mature, the 1991 material is like the HELLHAMMER demos – great, but the recording sucks, the 1993 material has a poor sound quality, but some keys are added. Anyhow, there is one name that comes to my mind – HELLHAMMER. Slow, painful...from the dawn of creation.
Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0

SWALLOW THE SUN

"Hope" CD
SPINEFARM
I'm drinking my beer; I'm listening to "Hope" of SWALLOW THE SUN and I wonder what to tell about the new album... No doubt, an excellent creation, as it has been expected, marking the undeniable talent of these Finnish guys. The band hasn't made a worthless album yet, and is still running higher and higher. The same melodic Doom/Death Metal from another dimension – beauty, sadness, pain...a wonderful hybrid and mix between brutal roars and clean and soft vocals. It is remarkable that these clean vocals are now a little more, compared with the previous 2 albums of the band. But there's no problem and the fans will not be disappointed. The guitar riffs are heavy, the tempo is slow at whole and the episodic keyboard parts strengthen the feeling of the immeasurable loss and the silent dread in the shadows of the sanity. Is there hope at last, or we have to live without it – nobody knows...
Stefan Stefanov.....8,5

AZURE EMOTE

"Chronicles Of An Aging Mammal" CD
EPIDEMIE
Intense Death Metal with many electronic influences. It is a band that has many "stars" inside – people from MONSTROSITY, VILE, DIVINE RAPTURE, XXX MANIAK, MOURNING to name a few. It is interesting to hear this new approach to death metal, as every song sounds differently. To be honest, it is far too original to be appreciated by the ordinary listener and needs more than 1-2 quick spins of the album. But as I always say, you either like it or not.
Ivailo Tonchev.....5,5



BE PERSECUTED

"I" CD
NO COLOURS
Damn, this has to be the band with the most buzzing guitars I've ever heard. The vocals sound such in a suicidal way – desperate and the same time malicious screams which frighten me. Let me introduce you BE PERSECUTED. They are a young band

and they play depressing Black Metal. Their motherland is... China! This is an interesting fact which deserves to be marked. Do you remember how many bands from that part of the world have you heard? Me – not a single one, but it was a time. BE PERSECUTED just slaughtered me with this album, which is actually a debut for them. They brought me back in my most frightening nightmares which I went through again with pleasure. That's it, only hatred and nothing more! Insane-e-e!
Stefan Stefanov.....7,0

COLLARBONE

"The Back Of Beyond" CD
RANCH
Finnish alternative rock, which was known as "grunge" some years ago. There are some neo Metal/Screamo touches added, it is nice to be listened to, but I doubt if I will play it again.
Ivailo Tonchev.....4,0

THE C.N.K.

"L'Hymne à la Joie" CD
SEASON OF MIST
It was first COUNT NOSFERATU, then COUNT NOSFERATU KOMMANDO and now it's already COSA NOSTRA KLUB! Let me introduce you this eccentric project of classy gangsters. Refined gentlemen from the French scene take part here: Hreidmarr (ANOREXIA NERVOSA), Heinrich Von B. Sylvicious (TAMTRUM), Valnoir (METASTAZIS). These four made an amazing inheritor of the first album "Ultraviolence Über Alles" (2002). "L'Hymne à la Joie" is the perfect combination between Orchestral and Electro Metal with powerful and fine sound. The fierce screaming performance of Mr. Hreidmarr hasn't lost the power yet and know they sound more majestic than ever since. This music will not enter in your ideas for some known, heard or overexposed long since. The word is "originality" and for C.N.K. it's not a utopia. Very concentrated aggression in symbiosis with bombastic orchestrations and electro samples – it seems to be the future of the avant-garde Metal. Welcome to the club!
Stefan Stefanov.....9,0

BROWN JENKINS

"Dagonite" CD
MORIBUND
This was originally self-released, but the guys at MORIBUND took it and re-released it. 5 tracks of POORLY recorded Black/Doom-Metal. Monotonous and loooooong tracks. I have a huge respect for the label, but this is...kinda...boring...who said that...it wasn't me.
Ivailo Tonchev.....2,0

NON OPUS DEI

"The Quintessence" CD
PAGAN
I knew this band just like a name I have met in some magazine, I don't really remember. Or that's what I think. But this album seems to be their fifth. The Polish bands have always offered the world quality and unique Metal. The situation with NON OPUS DEI is the same. They mix avantgarde way Death and Black Metal – the result is "The Quintessence" which contains 13 songs. The lyrics are on the native language and English...you can find even multilingual track – a variety, just like the music itself. I give them my admirations and good evaluation and I have nothing more to say.
Stefan Stefanov.....7,0

ARCANA COELESTIA

"Ubi Secreta Colunt" CD
ATMF
It is surely music from a different dimension. It is prescribed to be filed "Experimental Funeral Doom Black Metal" and here it goes, fast Black Metal attacks alternate to moody atmospheric passages. The concept is entirely based upon the Swedish writer August Strindberg and his final opus "Inferno", before leaving his



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activity to focus on Alchemy. His life was lived on the border of madness, tormented by the visions and the prophecies of his master E.Swedenborg in his text called "Arcana Coelestia". Nowadays this opus is still considered "cursed". A nice one, I liked it. But I haven't felt the curse yet.
Ivailo Tonchev.....7,0

THRONEUM

"Deathmass Of The Gravedancer" CD
DISPLEASED
Thanks to this album, you have the chance to enjoy the pure essence from Old School Blackened Death Metal, offered to the listener with the unchanged underground sounding - what THRONEUM undoubtedly offer. Primitive, evil, devastating... what more do you need. Ear-cutting guitar, axe-hacking drums and truly mad shouts - the Polish executors (with already over ten years of history) show no mercy. "Deathmass Of The Gravedancer" is the fourth full-length creation of this band. In case you have listened to previous albums of THRONEUM, you should know that they won't disappoint you again and won't give any change to their sound and style. Punch in the face and desecration to all holy things! The nightmare has just began...
Stefan Stefanov.....7,0

VINTERRIKET

"Und Die Nacht Kam Schweren Schrittes & Lichtschleier" CDs
DISPLEASED
Both releases came out on one and the same day and actually represent old material, being re-released with bonus tracks. Wonderfully released albums, excellent covers and great music to listen to. VINTERRIKET have more than 40 releases behind their backs and if you know them, you certainly know these are their regular trademarks! Melancholic and depressive, it used to be Black Metal many years ago. Not anymore.
Ivailo Tonchev.....8,0

SCARS OF CHAOS

"Humanitarian War Machine" CD
BLACK SQUARE
The chaos is coming to swallow you, you are doomed. If you like bands from the newer generation which define their style as Symphonic Extreme Metal (something like DIMMU BORGIR for example) with strong guitar riffs and majestic keyboards, then SCAR OF CHAOS is just for you. The band from France, which before had the name DAEMONIC ALCHEMY, is now with other name and has a brand new album - "Humanitarian War Machine". And the album's creators are: Horde (drums), Dark One (guitars), Evil Tongue (vocals), Angelus (keyboards) and Sardiuss (bass). Three of them take part in another band, called RAZORSHAPE. And if you wonder what is actually Extreme Metal... hmmm, so by my opinion this is just a mixture between Death and Black Metal. And when we add the solid keyboard presence, it turns to Symphonic Extreme Metal. Logical like a theorem, he-he.
Stefan Stefanov.....6,5



DISRUPT

"The Rest double CD / The Unrest" CD
RELAPSE
One of the wildest and most influential Crust/Grind bands gets some of its back catalogue re-released. The classic UNREST album with some bonus tracks and the double CD with many tracks from their hard to get EPs and splits are featured there. Essential re-releases and every single track is worth buying these jewels!
Ivailo Tonchev.....10



FORTID

"Völuspá part II: The Arrival of Fenris" CD
NO COLOURS

No Colours Records is maybe the most productive Underground label. They constantly bring up different bands from all over the world, mostly Black Metal for my delight. And now here comes something very interesting. It comes just from Iceland. FORTID is a side project of Eldur (THULE, POTENTIUM, SYKDOM, CURSE), who performs the vocals, the guitars, the bass, the synth, the programming. This man has the help of another mysterious person with pseudonym Fimbultyr who is responsible for the drums and the percussions. The result of this combination is impressive - Viking/Black Metal, quite melodic and epic. I, personally, liked it much. And this second album has lyrics which are inspired by the Norse mythology. No doubt the best song here is "Odin's Sacrifice" which reaches the level of FALKENBACH by the feelings and majesty. I'm interested, it goes without saying that, and I am listening to FORTID with pleasure already over ten times, he-he.
Stefan Stefanov.....7,5

NITROUS

"Dominant Force" CD
NAILBOARD Records
Heavy Estonian HC/Thrash Metal with a certain SLAYER influence. The band is a brainchild of the Estonian drag-racing champion Lauri Kuriks. They call themselves "slayeresque drag race Thrash Metal". And of course, the music fits perfectly the description. Eleven tracks, that sound a bit too similar, but that is... well, the common problem with so many bands these days.
Ivailo Tonchev.....5,0

I SHALT BECOME

"In the Falling Snow" CD
NO COLOURS
Cold, atmospheric Black Metal is overflowing me when I play "In the Falling Snow". Sounds from the eternity's abyss - represented simply and primitive. S. Holliman (BIRKENAU) is responsible for all instruments and vocals here and I SHALT BECOME is his one-man

project. It is claimed that the beginning is still in '95 and this material has been recorded in '98. Nobody knows why it's being released just now through No Colours Records but this is not of big importance. The length of the songs is big but the lyrics are quite short. The tempo is slow with an occult touch and the vocals are like a goblin, which is weeping his unhappy fortune. This is the second album for I SHALT BECOME but I have already information for the third album. Devastation only... mental...
Stefan Stefanov.....6,0

NARTHEX

"Flatness Of Life" CD
PAINKILLER
Death/Thrash Metal, full of unexpected breaks and...you name it. Very good hammering sound, fast guitars, reminds me of stuff like BOLT THROWER (for the sound) or VILE. A band that is not afraid to mix hyperfast grind with some funky guitars. Excellent musicians and an album to be appreciated by many!
Ivailo Tonchev.....7,0

SATAN'S HOST

"Burning The Born Again... (A New Philosophy)" CD
MORIBUND
SATAN'S HOST is a band from U.S.A. Their base is in Boulder, Colorado and the band started in the far away 1977. During the '80's of the past century, the band played Power Metal until its splitting-up after the murder of the original drummer. They went in standby until the resurrection in '90's but this time with a new style direction - Black/Death Metal with some Thrash elements. "Burning The Born Again..." is the fourth album for this satanic act. The band includes the following black souls: Pete 3 Wicked (drums), Patrick Evil (bass, guitars) and L.C.F. Eli Elixir (vocals). Fifteen songs of occult Satanism, presented to us in the form of Metal, swarming from the depths of Hell! Of course, with the expected dose of

OBSIDIAN RECORDS



MISERY
ON DEMON WINGS
ORM-004 | CD

Blasphemous Death Metal transcripts which show the band is still at the top of their game to this day. As the cliché goes, the best has been saved till last. Damon Robinsons vocals are the heaviest and most aggressive ever captured. Scotti Edgars guitars have only intensified, with evil oozing out with every note evicted. His trademark leads strewn throughout, and Anthony Dwyers drumming once again proves speed and technicality are not all that death metal drumming is made off.



LIBM FROM LIMB
RIP HIM FROM HIS FUCKING THRONE
ORM-003 | CD

Laying waste and forging their own path of contemporary extremity, Limb from Limbs release, Rip Him From His Fucking Throne is an unrelenting carbon course of pure hatred, contempt for mankind and mocking its gullible nature. Eight atomically destroying tracks that will induce a provocation of violence within even the most controlled. Fall to your knees in submission, the Limb from Limb tsunami of trepidation has only just begun.



PORTAL
OUTRE
ORM-007 | 12"LP

An aural projection screen has once again been created for those outside the sanctum. A parallel universe exists, presented visually in the old-world, yet aurally, these sounds are almost futuristic. Not because they are assisted by modern sound scapes or overblown usage of technology. Far from it, it's just that they have been rarely heard or depicted before. It is this formation of 3, with the puissance to administer once again.



THE DEAD
THE DEAD
ORM-009 | CD

A caged, infected and rabid quartet pacing the Obsidian Records quarantine area for near three years has absconded its confines. The suspects are armed with nine monstrous tracks of death metal and are perceived to be highly contagious. - They eat their wounded



aggression. Poor devil to the Christian souls and to their 'saviour', uncle Jesus! And all that in the name of the Horned one!
Stefan Stefanov.....6,5

MAXIMUM PERVERSION / EBOLIE "Fuck Ya Ears and Drink Ya Beers" Split CD GRINDHEAD

2 Australian grind core bands team here to make you puke. Blood, sperm, horror, zombies, beer...do you really like the combination? And the list of ingredients can go on forever, from worse to worse. Don't get me wrong, I love grind core, I grew up with it, but sometimes I can't get into its 'toilet stench' department.
Ivailo Tonchev.....4,0

SATAN'S HOST

"Great American Scapegoat 666" CD
MORIBUND

Here is it the new album of SATAN'S HOST, which is the sixth in their discography. It's slightly better and more aggressive than "Burning The Born Again..." In addition the sound of the band is vastly improved. The cause of this is that this time the guys recorded the album in Flatline Audio (CEPHALIC CARNAGE, SUMMON, COBALT). We are witnesses of Thrash/Black/Death Metal slaughter again. And it has stressed satanic standing. Invocation, Lucifer, Azrael, Baphomet...Dark clouds threaten over U.S.A. and there's no rescue for the weak ones. SATAN'S HOST are the bringers of the new Satanic World Order and whoever doesn't take it has to die... in the name of the Lord! That's all, damn!
Stefan Stefanov.....7,0

RONCSIPAR

"Antimonumentum" CD
GRINDHEAD

It is a Hungarian band, not the ordinary stuff featured in BRUTALLICA. Remember the O.L.D. band on EARACHE? This band reminds me of them, industrial/stoner rock, quite various considering the influences of this 2 man project. It is performed in Hungarian, so that can be interesting to those, who are bored of English.
Ivailo Tonchev.....5,0

TYMAH

"Loquitur Cum Algo Sathanas" CD
NO COLOURS

Many people will be in delusion just from the reading of the name of this band. Actually it's written in Cyrillic alphabet (articulation and reading "Tuman") and means "fog". A good name for a Black Metal band like this one is. TYMAH claim they play True Carpathian Black Metal. This trio comes from Szeged, Hungary. The beginning was in the not so far 2002 and "Loquitur Cum Algo Sathanas" is the second full-length album for the Hungarians. It contains seven tracks which (as the creators say) are symbolizing the seven gates... probably leading to hell, as I can't understand anything from the lyrics. The whole music and lyrics are written by Dim (vocals, guitars), the other two dark souls are Gelal (drums) and Shadow (bass). Now I'm going to tell you what to expect from this album - fast Black Metal with hysterical (not so, but as well) screams - satanic music, which undoubtedly will find

out its fans.

Stefan Stefanov.....6,0

DEPRESSION

"Ein Kakophonischer Lebenshauch" CD
APATHIC VIEW

It is the first and the last live recording of DEPRESSION, a band that started in 1989 and so far hasn't changed their type of music - raw old school death/grind. It includes a concert from 2006 and 1 unreleased studio track. Good quality recording and as the press-release says "it is not just an archival recording" but a document of their live energy and grind core soaked brutality. Good, but you should check their studio releases first, to get the proper point of view...
Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0

ULCERATE

"Of Fracture And Failure" CD
NEUROTIC

I don't know much about New Zealand's extreme Metal scene and that's why I was curious to hear the debut album of ULCERATE from Auckland, New Zealand. "Of Fracture And Failure" will be a pleasure for the ears of every fan of technical Death Metal. ULCERATE combine the crazy structures of DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN and MESHUGGAH together with the brutality and aggression of CRYPTOPSY. The final result is a tornado of twisted riffs and grinding drumming. The vocalist Ben Read changes his vocals constantly from low growls to hysterical screams. The production is quite good and all the instruments are possible to be heard. The nine tracks in "Of Fracture And Failure" are really complex and not easy to listen but the fans of technical stuff will like this album. ULCERATE have bags full of talent so don't forget to look out also for their upcoming second record.
Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5

INVICTUS

"Imperium Paganum" CD
NO COLOURS

Moody and melancholic neo-classical music, that made me play again and again the CD. This is the music of the Hungarian Sahsnót, who performed all instruments on this album. Heathen music, full of mysteries and darkness. A tribute for the ancestors we never had, but we would have been honored to have in our family trees. Some people consider it nationalistic, well; you can love your country, as long as you don't hate the others. I love music that makes me dream and think.
Ivailo Tonchev.....9,0

SUICIDAL WINDS

"Total Death N'Live" CD
PULVERISED

The oldschool Swedish blasphemers are back, this time with their second live album "Total Death N'Live" consisting of 14 tracks of pure, raw and dirty Black Metal with strong Thrash influence. The first 12 audio attacks are from SUICIDAL WINDS' gig at Festung Open Air in Germany in 2006. The last two tracks are slightly different - one is recorded in Rotterdam in 2004 and the other is a studio cover of KREATOR's "Total Death". The sound is absolutely unpolished and real, the band reveals in full its power and the whole recording sounds like a big fun. Mathias Johansson screams his guts out and is shouting loud "Cheerz" to the audience in between the songs. The other SUICIDAL guys are playing their instruments tight and with lots of energy. "Total Death N'Live" is a proper live evidence of SUICIDAL WINDS' strong presence on the stage. You may enjoy this record together with some cool beers and also look for the newest SUICIDAL record "Chaos Rising".
Tsvetan Rachev.....7,0

TEMTRIS

"Masquerade" CD
BATTLEGROUND

One of the major contenders in the revival of Heavy Metal in Australia, TEMTRIS is already known as one of the most dynamic bands in the genre. Displaying an infectious blend of technical skill and powerful song-writing ability, they are taking their unique sound and appeal to the world. Catchy female vocals, strong and powerful Metal the way it used to be in the past!
Ivailo Tonchev.....7,0

DEATHCULT

"Cult of the Dragon" CD
DARK ESSENCE

Another evil is creeping over the whole world, starting from the iced Norway. DEATHCULT is the name of the new cult! Cult of the Dragon, cult to the Death, cult to Satan! Pure Black Metal which devastates all living forms on its way. This is a side project of Herr Ekkel, the guitarist in TAAKE. Hoest and Thurzur from the same band have been asked to help and the line-up is the following: Herr Ekkel (funeralharp & summoning), Meistermann (deathsaw), Hoest (chainsaw & cursing), Thurzur (execution hammers). The album was recorded in ANP Studio together with Vrangsin (ex-CARPATHIAN FOREST, SECHT, NEETZACH, HATEPULSE). More help is secured by Svartulv (ex-TAAKE) and Dirge Rep (SECHT, ORCUSTUS). As you can see, an evil party from famous scenesters who already have proven their loyalty to the scene and to ... Satan. And what's left to us?! Nothing more than supporting the cult. Or to join it?
Stefan Stefanov.....7,5

ALLERJEN

"Surrender and be Destroyed" CD
ALLERJEN

Classic Metal, hardcore blend here. They dropped the "nu" element in their music, so do not expect any trendy MTV posers. Just plain raw extremity.
Ivailo Tonchev.....5,0

BEFORE THE DAWN

"Deadlight" CD
CYCLONE EMPIRE

Finnish dark Metal, born as a solo project by Tuomas Saukkonen. The band continued through many line up changes and many albums, until "Deadlight" came, that seems a new beginning for BEFORE THE DAWN. Solid and heavy dark Metal, not unlike KATATONIA, PARADISE LOST, AMORPHIS. This is the European edition that is released like a digipack and has 2 bonus tracks and a bonus video.
Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0

BREAKDUST

"Mutilated Earth" CD
666 PRODUCTION

It's weird; they have waited for 18 years to release this album! Formed in 1988, guided by their love to METALLICA, the band grew up a lot until the time came for this release. The main METALLICA influence can be heard too, mixed with modern Thrash Metal and hardcore. Despite the fact it is not original and too many bands sound like this, I liked the album. Good luck and do not wait too much for the next album!
Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0

HELLVETO

"966" CD
PULVERISED

A time has come for me to discover HELLVETO although I haven't ever heard about this underground phenomenon but this album is the 10" full-length album of this one-man project from Poland. The mysterious person with the initials L.O.N. (all instruments) stays behind this all. The style is claimed to be Orchestral Pagan Metal and the lyrics are all in the native language. This is quite a reacting music which is not monotonous and conquers the sanity before you know where you are. I just can't stop listening to "966" by my opinion, it's a wonderful album which deserves my (and not only!) admirations. Many feelings have been inserted into these 8 pagan hymns. I should find out the band's previous albums but let me play this one again...
Stefan Stefanov.....8,5

NINE

"It's Your Funeral" CD
SPINEFARM

Since their first EP in 1995, NINE have been one of the leading Swedish hardcore/ Metal bands. Raw, yet melodic music, categorized as "death rock", sinister lyrics, many unexpected guitar breaks, heavy and intense drumming. This band is fresh and interesting...
Ivailo Tonchev.....7,0

GRIMM

"Heksenkringen" CD
DISPLEASED

Through their second full-length album, GRIMM tell us the forgotten stories of medieval witches, burnt from the inquisitors of Vatican. Very interesting, but let us pay attention to the band itself. This trio comes from Holland and claims that is playing Pagan Metal. It might be like this, but my opinion is that you can also discover Black and Folk Metal elements in their music. A good mixture and composing, and the sound done on a good level too. The only disadvantage is the unsuccessful vocal performance of Heer Marchosias (he doesn't do well the vocals in his other band ZWARTKETERIJ, too...) who is actually the band's drummer. But if we don't mind this, GRIMM have much to impress us, so you can give an ear to "Heksenkringen".
Stefan Stefanov.....6,5

SEPIA DREAMER

"The Sublime" CD
Galactic Records

Instrumental Doom/ Death Metal. 5 looong tracks of despair and coldness. Monotonous. I liked it through the first hearing, but the second time reminded me I've heard it all before.
Ivailo Tonchev.....5,0

FROM BEYOND

"All Thrash Breaks Loose" CD
PAINKILLER

Old school Thrash Metal by two old scenesters of the cult band MORIBUND. I do not know many bands from Belgium and this is a very pleasant exception. Very well played, excellent production.
Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0



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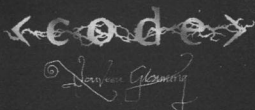
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VINNUM SATANAE THE WINE of SATAN Volume II

Finally, the return of the penultimate Black Metal compilation featuring exclusive new material from:
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The official LP release of English/Norwegian avant-garde Black Metallers CODE's debut "Nouveau Gloaming". Featuring different layout from the CD version, this unique package contains a black & silver booklet with translucent vellum paper inner pages.

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The master of obscure, mesmerising and venomous Black Metal returns with this untitled EP. Possibly one of the most cult releases ever, these seven inches of pure torture contain no songs, just two masterpieces of devious and unearthly Black art!

MACABRE OMEN/THE SYRE Three Years Standing Proud in Valhalla

Continuing where "Two Years Standing Proud in Valhalla" (NTR001) left off, "Three Years Standing Proud in Valhalla" is a Black Metal tribute to the legend of BATHORY and commemorates the Third anniversary of Quorthon's death.

MACABRE OMEN pay tribute with "To Enter Your Mountain"
THE SYRE pay tribute with "Home of Once Brave"

Available as a 7" EP limited to 250 hand-numbered copies.

NECROSADIST In the Realm of Flesh

Originally released in 2005, "In the Realm of Flesh" is a harsh dose of raw, thrashing Black Metal that harkens back to the old days. "In the Realm of Flesh" first received 8/10 in TERRORIZER magazine and subsequently sold out. "In the Realm of Flesh" contains six tracks of cold, chaotic and deadly Raw Necro Violence: You are nothing but flesh!

Now available once again on limited mCD featuring an improved sound and new artwork!

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NECROSADIST
In the Realm of Flesh



Sabbah Navakthani

For all those who live under a rock, SABBAAH NAVAHTHANI play an incendiary style of Sludge Doom with a hefty dose of d-beat Crust filth and a totally old-school Black Metal necro feeling throughout. Their self-titled debut CD contains seven tracks of crushing Doom Metal influenced by the likes of SAINT VITUS, ELECTRIC WIZARD and HELLHAMMER.
Co-released with OBSE Productions.

HEAR THE SOUND OF NECRO
AND FEEL THE TERROR



www.necroterror.net - necroterror@gmail.com
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MACHINAE SUPREMACY

"Overworld"
SPINEFARM
"Overworld" we have everything inside! Lots of electronics, some gothic, some nu Metal, some Heavy Metal, some video games music. I must confess that I usually feel a strong suspicion to such bands, but this one worked very well in the case of MACHINAE SUPREMACY. They were one of the very first bands to gain immense popularity by their internet promotion and by filesharing and I am happy that they have already released 2 albums on the old fashioned medium, called Compact Disc. I like it, quite emotional and different stuff.

Ivailo Tonchev.....7,0

AGONIZER

"Birth/The End"
CD
SPINEFARM
It's their first album and we shouldn't be too critical, though I can't be critical to this! Perfectly recorded tracks, great music and one of the most interesting heavy metal bands around - modern and not trendy in any way. Good luck to you, guys!

Ivailo Tonchev.....7,0

DETONATION

"Emission Phase"
CD
OSMOSE
DETONATION's brand new album "Emission Phase" was recorded in early 2007 under production guidance of Jochem Jacobs (TEXTURES) and was released April 30th 2007. It is their third and surely best release, fast and aggressive Death/Thrash Metal, melodic and technically played stuff. Music for maniacs, for the true lovers of the genre...

Ivailo Tonchev.....5,0

OBSCURITY

"Schlachten & Legenden"
CD
MASSACRE
Brutal Black/Death Metal performed in German and possibly devoted to entirely German topics - history and legends. Very melodic yet harsh sound, fast solos and excellent production.

Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0

MYKORRHIZA

"Northern Remembrance"
CD
KONKQUERROR
Trying to sell Swedish Death Metal is like trying to sell Irish whiskey - everything is correct and people know well the qualities of the trademark. With MYKORRHIZA we make no mistake - reminding me of the early 90s bands, fast pounding drums, James Hetfield styled vocals... A nice mixture. Remember CARBONIZED? I was surprised how much they remind me of them, but it was soon that I discovered they shared members. I have to dig my old demo tapes...

Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0

TAAK

"Koerapööridõ"
CD
NAILBOARD
TAAK (meaning "a heavy burden") was established in November of 2005 as a parallel band of DAWN OF GEHENNA. TAAK has the same line-up as DAWN OF GEHENNA and plays the same music. Being one of the oldest bands in Estonia, TAAK deliver 11 Doom Metal tracks in the old way - BLACK SABBATH, though slightly modernized and more Metal than psychedelic. But I like it, I love exotic sounds from exotic places and when was the last time you heard a band from...Estonia...?

Ivailo Tonchev.....8,0

METSATOLL

"Terast mis hangund me"
CD
hinge 10218"
CD
NAILBOARD
METSATOLL started playing together in 1998 as a three-piece (Markus - vocals and guitar, Factor - drums, Andrus - bass), playing epic Heavy Metal with small

influences from ancient Estonian folklore. This is their third album, remastered again, Heavy Metal, deeply "planted" in the old traditions; you can hear many folk instruments and feel their pride. Of course, all lyrics are in Estonian. The band has its moments for me, you may like it too!

Ivailo Tonchev8,0

UNEXPECT

"In a Flesh Aquarium"
CD
ASCENDANCE Records
Mike Portnoy (DREAM THEATER) liked this, so I knew it will be the type of progressive I will hate. Honestly, I was mistaken. Fast, full of unexpected breaks, mesmerizing female vocals, enchanting guitar solos, funky bass parts. Reminds me very much of the 70s kraut rock or...ever heard of MAGMA? Of course, there is a solid metal presence. Check this out, if you like progressive Metal.

Ivailo Tonchev.....6,0

AVERSE SEFIRA

"Advent Parallax"
CD
CANDLELIGHT
I didn't expect that the land of cowboys, rattle snakes and ZZ TOP - the state of Texas is able to give birth to a freezing cold and grim Black Metal band but it is a fact - AVERSE SEFIRA come from Austin TX and "Advent Parallax" is their fourth album. The band sticks to the long (around 7 minutes each) compositions with many aggressive riffs and thunderous drumming. Their music reminds of the classic SATYRICON sound ("Nemesis Divina" days) combined with the sheer wrath of newer bands like 1349. The vocals are harsh and spiteful in the best Black Metal tradition. The length of the compositions may be a challenge for the listener but AVERSE SEFIRA's music is interesting and versatile enough to keep the attention. "Advent Parallax" is one very good album from the US Black Metal scene and deserves fans' attention.

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5

MY GRAIN

"Signs Of Existence"
CD
SPINEFARM
This kind of style is getting really popular - pessimistic rough/NU Metal. At least there is something special about MY GRAIN - the beautiful Eve and the sounds of her keyboards. Otherwise, this style is nothing but unsuccessful cliché. I know it is hard to be original these days, but you should try harder. Especially when you have the potential and the talent.

Ivailo Tonchev.....4,0

ARKHON

"Orthodoxyn"
CD
OSMOSE
The French devil worshippers are back with their fourth offering titled "Orthodoxyn". Those of you who have had the chance to hear some of their previous efforts will know what to expect - dark and ominous Death/Black Metal with Satanic lyrics. ARKHON INFAUSTUS have taken influences from the deep and heavy sound of IMMOLATION and have combined it with the aggression of the newest MAYHEM stuff plus some oldschool Doom passages. The final result is an interesting record filled with diverse extreme music. ARKHON INFAUSTUS have developed a sound of their own and the fans of their previous works will not remain disappointed by the new "Orthodoxyn". Another impressive release from the catalogue of Osmose

Productions.

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,0

CHRONIC TORMENT

"Dream Of The Dead"
CD
Self Released
This Swedish band was a great surprise for me. It is my "discovery" of this issue of Brutallica. They were absolutely unknown for me until I get the incredible "Dream Of The Dead" CD. The album impressed me mostly with its great variety; the guys combine fierce low tuned oldschool Death Metal with Doom and atmospheric Metal. Actually CHRONIC TORMENT isn't a new band, they formed the band in...1991 but obviously they have not been lucky enough to make something significant. The vocals of Tom Alcohol are very emotional at places, especially in the track "Dream Of The Dead" - a doomy opus filled with great atmosphere. Remarkable! The proof for the great variety of the album is the next track - "Rectal Rage", fierce strong Death Metal blast at the beginning, alternating with some slow atmospheric passages driven mostly by the keyboards. Undoubtedly for me CHRONIC TORMENT is a completed and skilled band which deserves a good label to show their potential to the masses.

Chavdar Tzachkov.....8,0

TWILIGHTNING


"Swinelords"
CD
SPINEFARM
This used to be a promising Power Metal band, that took an unexpected turn with their new album - 80s hard/glam rock. Of course, you can't be the next SKIDROW, but you can be equally boring. I am not even sure that this still sells... Keep to

your previous style guys, 80s Hard Rock nightmare is over...for good.
Ivailo Tonchev.....2,0

INFAUST

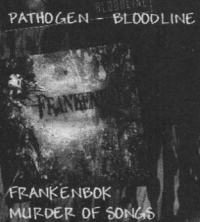
"Blutbad & Melancholie"
CD
EISENWALD
The second album from this German band shows a decent mixture of atmospheric passages as well as classical black runs. Stylistically oriented as old school Black Metal the songs go above all sombre, raw and rather uncompromisingly to the point, but always carry these moments of melancholy. The recording, in my opinion, also fits very well for a Black Metal album, very well-arranged and muddy sound, without sounding too rough or without power. The German song titles don't allow hearing the lyrics (even if you are German) with totally hatred and strangled-like vocal performance they fit absolutely well. Indeed, INFAUST have made a huge step with mixing the known aggressive passages with rather atmospheric, slow or melodic parts. The Songwriting as well as the songs are more variable and courageous. Once again INFAUST increase by the end and deliver a furious ending in the form of a nearly 10-minute long, destructive and apocalyptic final. All in all an excellent follow up to the debut and I am sure many will like "Blutbad & Melancholie" CD. Underground Black Metal fans and all those who are tired of things filed under this should check this one out (for example, the track on the CD Sampler) and keep an eye on the band; I don't think they will disappoint you!

Serg666.....8,5




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The brothers Athelstan and Wulfstan are back! More than 10 years after they formed FOREFATHER and after their fiasco with Karmageddon Music it seems that they have surmounted the bad moments and are full of force. A proof for this is their brand new album "Steadfast" just released by their own Seven Kingdoms label. I didn't need more than one spin of the album to decide that I want them interviewed for this issue of Brutalica. Wulfstan was the right man for it, this time. Ladies and gentlemen I'm proud to present to you the fascinating FOREFATHER.

CHAVDARTZACHKOV

FOREFATHER already have more than 10 years of existence. Can you make some retrospection of these years? You should be proud of what you have done so far! But every artist has something that he'll never forget.

I think we can be reasonably proud of our achievements. The overwhelming feeling I get is that we've made a worthwhile contribution to the Metal community. We could have perhaps been a bit more prolific, and we could have had more success if we'd had the determination to pursue it, but I think we are satisfied. Of course, not everything has gone smoothly though. The biggest regret is our involvement with Karmageddon Media, which I will talk about more later.

What is the essence of FOREFATHER? Can we take it as your tribute to your ancestors?

At the time of FOREFATHER's inception we were listening to a lot of Scandinavian bands, many of which drew inspiration from their Viking heritage. It was natural that we would take a similar interest in these historical matters. In our music we just shifted the focus to our own Anglo-Saxon English history of the same general period. In some respects it is a tribute to our forefathers, but also a demonstration of our belief in the importance of heritage, tribal identity, etc.

Your music guys is like a medicine against depression, it fills me up with energy and raises my mood. But how do you should feel when you write this music, I think there should be some kind of driving force for you to create this music?!

I'm glad that our music can have such an uplifting effect. This is obvious in tracks like "The Shield-Wall". We also have more melancholic songs like "The Folk That Time Forgot" and "Forever In Chains", but they are still somehow uplifting in their melancholy, if you understand me. I'd like to say that writing the music is some kind of magical, ritualistic process, but it really isn't. It just comes as a result of lots of messing about on the guitar and every now and then stumbling across bits and bobs that seem to stand out and have potential. Perhaps more of the magic comes in the later stages of the recording process, where we add extra little parts that can greatly affect the overall product. **Your new album "Steadfast" has been just released. What can you tell us about it? As always the cover artwork is outstanding.**

I can tell you that it is our best sounding album so far. We seem to improve the production every album and this one is no different. The music itself is a continuation



of our usual style with, perhaps, a little bit of evolution. People shouldn't be too surprised. The cover art was created by Martin Hanford, who is probably best known for his work with BAL-SAGOTH. We told him what we wanted and he did a great job. You shouldn't judge a book by its cover, but it helps when it looks good! It's a relief to finally have the album completed and available. It was a long process.

Do you have plans to release "Steadfast" on vinyl also? I'm sure there will be a lot of interested fans to

possess a vinyl version.

There are no immediate plans to make a vinyl version available but it's something we would happily consider if we could find the right person to handle it. Our first album "Deep Into Time" is our only album so far to have been given the vinyl touch. Honestly, I've never been much of a vinyl person but I know a lot of people like it and there would be some demand.

I'd like to ask you to make a short description of the 11 tracks included in "Steadfast", especially the lyrical content?

"Brunanburh" - our tribute to the English victory at Brunanburh, an important battle of the 10th century. Inspired by the poem of the same name from the Anglo-Saxon chronicle.

"Cween of the Mark" - another upbeat and uptempo track, this time in honour of Athelflad of Mercia (daughter of Alfred the Great). She was instrumental in reclaiming land lost to the Danish conquests. There is also a similarity with the Eowyn of Rohan character in Lord of the Rings. I suspect Athelflad was part of Tolkien's inspiration when creating that character.

"Theodish Belief" - a slower, darker track. It's about the importance of the tribal way of life in ancient times, and how we don't have that same strong tribal belief now. Theodish was an Old English word meaning "tribe" or "a people". It has disappeared from modern English but survives in other languages such as "Deutsch" in German.

"Hallowed Halls" - a pretty epic sounding song about the importance of the mead hall in Anglo-Saxon warrior society. "Steadfast" - the title track. Quite aggressive and uplifting. The message is about being steadfast in your beliefs. Not giving in to outside pressure. Also to not tolerate

nonsense.

"Three Great Ships" - inspired by the legend of the brothers Hengest and Horsa who are said to have arrived in three great ships and founded the first English settlements in Britain. One of the faster tracks on the album.

"Eostre" - an instrumental. Named after the spring festival of Eostre. The music is quite jovial and celebratory so we thought it fitted well.

"Fire From the Sky" - an almost power Metal type track about the importance of omens and superstitions in Anglo-Saxon society.

"Mellowing of the Mains" - one of the darker songs. The title refers to the practice of clearing a space prior to a ritual, cleaning the energy field. Generally about the idea of wiping the slate clean (so to speak), the cycles of birth and death, creation and destruction.

"Wolfhead's Tree" - Maybe the most melancholy track on the album. Wolfhead was another name for an outlaw and the Wolfhead's Tree was the gallows. The song itself loosely tells the tale of a defeated head of a people or warrior-band, hanged by his conquerors.

"Miri It Is" - based around an early medieval folk song. The lyrics deal with the joys of the summer months and the impending doom of winter. We also added our own verse about how short our own lives are in the grand scheme of things and the importance in Anglo-Saxon society of earning fame through worthy deeds so that one's name may live on.

You released some of your albums on Karmageddon Media. Why didn't you continue your work with them? The new album is released on your own label?!

We didn't continue with them because it seems they stopped operation. But we wouldn't have continued with them anyway because we were very unsatisfied with them. They failed to honour our agreement in many areas. Also they messed up the "Ours is the Kingdom" master which really annoyed us. We decided to release "Steadfast" ourselves for a few reasons. There had already been a long gap since "Ours is the Kingdom" and we felt that searching around for a new label would slow things down even more. We just wanted to get the album out and available. After our bad experience with Karmageddon we were also more wary of signing any other deals with other labels.

Do you think you have the possibility to make a good promotion and distribution of the new album?

We're doing a pretty good job. Obviously we can't do as good a job as maybe some big labels could do, but at least handling things ourselves we know exactly how many CDs are being manufactured, where they are going, and the money goes straight to us. FOREFATHER has never been about the money but that doesn't mean we want to allow ourselves to be ripped off. I think we'd rather sell fewer CDs and be in control of everything than sell more CDs and be exploited by another label.

How do the people consider your music? Most of the reviews of your albums are very positive.

It's 95% positive, most of it extremely positive. That's very convenient because I'm very sensitive to criticism. It would be the worst thing to spend years of your life on an album (like we did with "Steadfast") and for people to pillory it. It's always a nervous time when you wait to see the first reviews. I'm relieved to say they have been very good.

Have you thought of turning FOREFATHER into a 100% real band with a real drummer, live instruments and of course live shows?

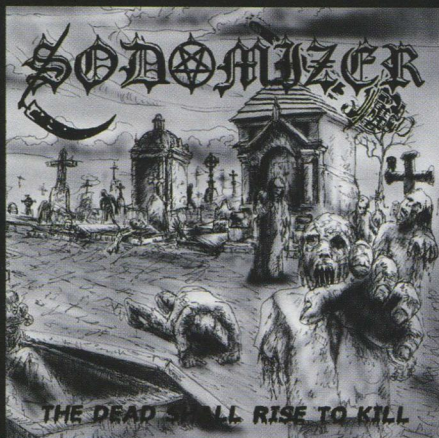
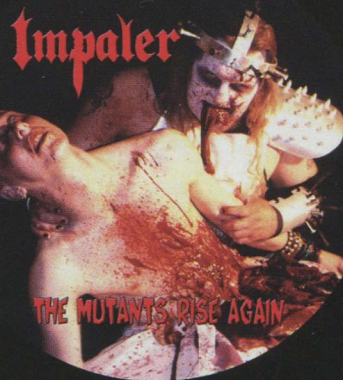
FOREFATHER We've never thought seriously about it. It's not what we want to do. In the beginning there were other musicians around but it never worked out and we went alone. It's been that way for so long that changing it doesn't seem right. We've always said live shows are unlikely so I don't think anyone feels let down by us not performing. At the same time we don't rule it out because you never know what the future holds.

Have you collaborated with other musicians/bands over the years?

The only collaboration we've done (unless my memory is really failing me) is with FOLKEARTH, which is a project that involves lots of people from around the world. We featured on two of the albums with two songs. I wrote the music to both songs and the lyrics to one. Both myself and Athelstan have also contributed vocal performances to other tracks. There was a lot of pressure to be involved more but we decided to stay away and concentrate on getting "Steadfast" completed. Now "Steadfast" is done we're thinking about contributing again.

Final words...

Thanks for the interview and thanks to everyone reading this who has supported us over the years. I hope you enjoy the new album and we'll do our best to not keep you waiting as long for the next one! Cheers!



Impaler "The Mutants Rise again" picture 7" EP

The mutant masters of Shock Rock have returned with their gruesome tales of horror and gore! The long sold out 2001 release has now finally been re-released as the long planned picture disc! "The Mutants Rise again" includes 3 own songs as well as their unique interpretation of Alice Cooper's classic "Dead Babies" and contains no less than 17+ minutes of Impaler's very own brand of Horror Metal! Another Impaler release proving this band never wimps out, and for those who do not yet know these creatures of the night this is the perfect introduction to the band (which has existed since 1983) that will finally set their mutated feet on European ground in 2008 for their first ever European shows! Limited to 525 hand numbered copies!

Impaler European tour dates 2008:

12/07 "Rock City", Aster, Switzerland
15/07 "G16", Leipzig, Germany (+ Demonical)
17/07 "Pub Asgard", Annaberg-Buchholz, Germany (+ Demonical)
19/07 "Tønder Kulturhus", Tønder, Denmark
26/07 "Headhangers Open Air", Brande-Hörnerkirchen, Germany

Sodomizer "The Dead shall Rise to Kill" EP & picture EP

The long awaited second album from the masters of Heavy Speed Metal finally available on vinyl. While traditional in their approach and easily labeled as "old school", Sodomizer comes across as a way more honest and dedicated band than your average run-of-the mill retro band. The album is loaded with fast Speed Metal hymns yet also reveals many other sides to their craft, like the 7+ minutes long instrumental piece "Heavy Metal Horror" which is a rather complex piece of Heavy Metal. Their influences range from the obvious to the most obscure and are so varied that Sodomizer could never become a clone of any band before them! All their (mainly horror themed) songs are spiced up with numerous samples of horror movies which creates also a very dark feeling within the catchy songs! The album is 36+ minutes of sheer power!
Available on 180g black vinyl, 180g grey/white vinyl (limited to only 100 copies) and picture disc (also limited to only 100 copies) - all in heavy gatefold sleeve and including A2 poster!

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"Rebanteermanden"
mini-CD



"A Night in Transylvania"
CD-single



"The Horrors of Satan"
CD

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Buttons:
1) Rebanteermanden 2) Black Logo on Red 3) Red Logo on Black 4) CD fan, eye ring

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The Danish Black Metal band DENIAL OF GOD was created in 1991 in the dawn of the second wave of the Black Metal outburst, and even they've managed to keep the flame burning for so many years. Having a lot of blackened live performance and numerous demos and EPs, finally it was time for them to make their full length CD. "The Horror Of Satan" was released more than a year ago but it still doing very well, especially with the new license deals. So I decided to get in touch with the man behind the 6 strings - Azter to talk about the new record and for the other peeks and faults of DENIAL OF GOD.

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

You have created DENIAL OF GOD in 1991 when the so-called new wave of Black Metal did its first steps. Can you remember if there were similar bands like yours at the time? I guess your initial style has been different compared to this today?

At that time we were in our very early stages of course and even if indeed that "new wave of Black Metal" came along it did not really have any influence on us as such because when everything exploded we had already been planning things like band name and even from before the band was formed it was clear that we were going to be a horror based band which we still are today – as much as ever. I am sure you can find some similarities with some of those bands from that time as make-up was suddenly the big thing to use then, but the few bands which still exist today all changed their visuals and music drastically in my opinion, and we are almost the only ones left who did not change their ways. I think the similarities were mainly that as other bands we wanted to bring back the EVIL in music, but this Black Metal wave did not influence us musically because our inspirations came from bands long before that, like ALICE COOPER, DEATH SS, MERCYFUL FATE, VENOM, MAYHEM, HELLHAMMER and so on as well as lots of old Heavy Metal bands like BLACK SABBATH etc. – we would have had the same concept and the same music, lyrics and visuals no matter what had been the trend at that time, because what we did and still do came and comes from the bottom of our blackened hearts and nothing else. I really hate being compared to bands from that time because most of them do not mean anything to me these days and I do not think there was ever a band just like DENIAL OF GOD!

17 years of existence isn't a joke. DENIAL OF GOD have a cult status among the Black Metal hordes but I guess there are always new and new fans coming up from different parts of the world. So, let's present them what DENIAL OF GOD is all about?

Yes, 17 years is certainly no joke...We have lots of times where things seemed impossible and where it was almost impossible to see any light at the end of the tunnel. These were situations where most other bands would for sure

have split up but we constantly felt that we could not just leave this band behind because we felt we had created something very unique and also our urge to keep on doing the band was never gone, even when times were most hard. I think we have a small but very dedicated following so in this way the term "cult" makes sense of course, but yes, there are always new people discovering the band which is great in my opinion because I certainly think we deserve to be more wellknown than we are. To present DENIAL OF GOD...imagine graveyards and fog, zombies and vampires, witchcraft and haunting spirits, The Devil and occult rites...All put to music and lyrics and you are halfway there...Ultra heavy, brutal but also very diverse Horror Metal with a sympathy for The Devil... DENIAL OF GOD is all about creating an atmosphere of sheer gothic horror with a dose of sheer violence added to the brew...

What are the most significant releases of DENIAL OF GOD till now?

To me that is without a doubt "The Horrors of Satan" because it is our best release so far, which comes closest to the dark arts that we are trying to create since the beginning. Furthermore it is our first and so far only full length album and also with the license deals we have made lately it is becoming the best distributed release with so far 3500 copies being sold and more on the way. **What distinguishes DENIAL OF GOD from the other Black Metal bands? What is the specific trade mark of DENIAL OF GOD, not only in the musical aspect but also your ideological views and thoughts?**

What distinguishes us most is probably that we are not a Black Metal band, haha! Really, while all of us are definitely dedicated to the left hand path I do not consider our music to be "Black" Metal because our main foundation is HORROR which is also what makes us extremely different from other bands. You can definitely find the traces of our left hand path dedication and Devil sympathies in our lyrics and image, but everything is presented in the most horrific way possible with the gothic imagery and



elaborate stage show. Musically I also think we are very far away from current Black Metal bands as we have developed our very own style which you will always recognise as being us – at the same time never being repetitive with our songs. Our music is truly diverse with music ranging from the ultra fast parts to slow and doomy moods, acoustic parts, melodic leads etc. etc. – in my opinion WAY more loaded with atmosphere than current Black Metal which today to me is just screaming on top of recycled riffs and

thoughts as a "trade mark".

Who is the most undisciplined member of DENIAL OF GOD and what punishment does he deserve, ha, ha...?

What a question is this? That is of course everyone but me and the proper punishment would be for them to sit and have to listen through 50 new trendy Thrash Metal albums!

Is it true that black metallers are very weak drinkers?

© I guess this rumour has been spread by death metallers, ho, ho...

Ask a Black Metallor...

What are the concerts of DENIAL OF GOD like? Fires, blood, goats, dramatic atmosphere... Maybe you have some special way to present your music live on stage?

The live shows are an extension of what you hear on our records. The songs performed by zombie musicians amidst a foggy and cobweb covered graveyard lightened up by candles. The shows are aimed at enhancing the songs with a heavily visual aspect using lots of skulls, fire, smoke, fog, burning books and crosses and rotting meat and maggots thrown into the audience. Compared to most bands the stage show is rather elaborate but so far I am not personally satisfied and I think we need more theatrics of all sorts – something we are planning for our next shows. But it is hard to do the complete show sometimes due to restrictions about fire and rotting meat at the venues and also some songs are very hard to do any theatrics for that

"WE always sound different because we ARE different!"

make sense – because ultimately everything HAS to make sense and not just be a random gimmick for a random song!

From what I know DENIAL OF GOD is a quite controversial band; you have a lot of fans but I know there are people that really hate you for what you've done over the years. Have you had any problems with your enemies?

Well, the stagershow has always been controversial because of the rotting meat and living maggots of course and many a venue owner has been anything but happy with the aftermath of our show. And I heard of threats from vegetarians if we would ever play a certain venue again, but none of these were ever directed personally to us. Anyway, I think the main contempt has always come from the mainstream press because what we do is certainly not something everyone can enjoy and being in a league of our own of sorts you are bound to receive heavy criticism because you are not following the current trends and never did. The mainstream press consists of nothing but corporate whores who are owned by the labels and anyone else that can let money flow into their pockets. If we were on a big label with lots of financial backing you can be sure that there would be DENIAL OF GOD interviews in the mainstream magazines, but as long as you are on a small label you can do the EXACT same album and yet you will not get more than a tiny mention or a half hearted review by some trendy asshole because these magazines are not doing interviews for the love of music but for the love of money.

What is the longest song of DENIAL OF GOD and what is its story? Many people don't know how hard it is, especially for the drummer, to record a 7-min song in the studio.

The longest song is "The Horrors of Satan" which is 13 minutes long. It kind of sums up the whole album at the end and tells about how everything evil is rising from its grave and will never find rest. Yes, recording drums for such a long song can be quite a task but Galheim easily pulled it through and recorded the complete drums for the album in less than two days. Of course that song has certain breaks without any drums which made it easier to record it in takes, but still. Recording with analog equipment there is just not so much room to fuck up as you cannot re-arrange drum patterns etc. on a computer afterwards. You would be surprised if you knew how much digital "magic" is being used on new albums making it sound like musicians can play something they can actually not!

I'm curious to know how your cooperation with Painkiller Records is. I'm impressed by the great package they did for your "The Horror Of Satan" CD but I often see the name of this label in various rip-off alerts.

There is no longer any cooperation with Painkiller Records as far as DENIAL OF GOD is concerned. The label was not able to pay the studio costs even after a year of delays, so we decided to pay for it ourselves and of course take over the rights for the album as well. There are no bad feelings between us and Painkiller Records, but if you have a label which cannot pay your recording, what will be next? Yes, we are very satisfied with how the album came out and the way it looks, but then again I made the complete layout, we ourselves paid for the cover painting so in the end Painkiller did not do so much for the album except to release it. The product itself is completely ours, although we are of course happy that Painkiller did everything as we wanted it and did not cut costs by making a cheap product. "The Horrors of Satan" has now been licensed to No Sign Of Life in Finland who are doing a good job with the distribution of the album and right now there is also a possibility that it will be released for the Russian market by a Russian label which we hope will become a reality as well. And we are still searching for a label to release the album outside of Europe as well. We are currently not signed to any label and at the moment I am not sure we will sign with anyone again either, but time will tell.

You have recorded "The Horrors Of Satan" in Berno Studio in Sweden but it is not the typical Berno sound. You probably wanted to sound different?! How much does a full day in Berno Studio cost?

WE always sound different because we ARE different. I do not know anything about any "Berno Sound" because to be honest I have not heard many recordings from that studio. The reason why we chose Berno was that we knew the studio was a really professional one and that they had analogue recording facilities which we absolutely wanted to use – even if as I said things are easier the digital way. Easier but not necessarily better. Berno Studio is located in Sweden but rather close to Denmark, so we decided to go there as we did not fancy any of the Danish studios that deal with Metal. And we will use Berno again for our next recordings as well.

Over the years you had problems with the long distances between the members of the band. Have you solved this problem and how often do you rehearse now?

The band is still spread across the country but not as bad as it used to be and besides this we have our very own rehearsal ritual chamber now which makes it way easier for us to practice intensely on a regular basis. It is still quite new but I figure we will rehearse twice a month on a two-day basis.

Do you have some special plans for the rest of 2008?

In July we will play at the Hells Pleasure Festival in Germany. This is so far the only show confirmed. There are some plans to return to Finland this autumn, but nothing is set in stone yet, so no guarantee even if I surely hope this will happen. Besides this we will soon record 4 songs for 3 new releases.

Your country Denmark has the reputation of the country with one of the best standards worldwide, much better than the USA, UK, etc. How is life over there; is there something you don't like?

There is always things you like and things you do not like but you are right, compared to many other countries the standard of living here is high, so I will not complain.

What is the connection between DENIAL OF GOD and Horror Records?

Horror Records is a label run solely by myself without help from anyone. I released the first vinyl version of "The Ghouls of DOG" in 1999 and last year I released the Australian tour 7" "The Book of Olufoel". In some months we will record 4 songs for 3 new releases – a split 7" EP w/ ABYSMAL GRIEF, a split 12" EP w/ PAGAN ALTAR and a 7" EP. All of them are scheduled for release on Horror Records as this means we have absolute control of how the releases turn out and even if I/we have to put a lot of money upfront for the recording and pressing the (small) profits will be bigger in the end and enable us to invest more money in the band for the stage show.

It is your right to finish this interview...

Thank you very much for the exposure in Brutalica – hail horror eternally!

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7 new despairing atrocities by this potent german band, stronger than ever Infaust know for shure how to create an hellish brew of aggressive songs and memorable melodies. A manifest of lived passion and true devotion, supreme black metal, powerfull with melancholic edges !



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RENEGADE is a brilliant Heavy Metal band from Bulgaria, which has released several albums and DVDs and is one of the most active touring bands here. It was a few months ago when they did a concert at a correctional institution, an album of old rock songs is being prepared. So we decided to ask some questions and got some answers...it was Konstantin Katsarov, one of the men behind RENEGADE. So, let's see what's going on in their camp... Be sure to support this brilliant Bulgarian heavy metal band!

IVAILO TONCHEV

RENEGADE

PLAYING HEAVY METAL IS FUN!

Hello and would you introduce the band? What are your influences and let us know something about the history....

Dear friend, it is what band biographies are for. It is almost 10 years, several albums and many concerts behind our backs. It all started when I entered the studio of Stoyu Popov, the "Sam" album followed in 2001, and the rest is already the beginning of our story... We share interests in different areas of rock music, but it's a fact that we also find a common language. I have no idea what influenced me personally, but I grew up with IRON MAIDEN and WHITESNAKE.

Is it difficult to play Heavy Metal in a country like Bulgaria? Do you agree that your music is "exotic"? A label that is used to describe music coming from places outside its regular sources – UK, USA, France... You know, even India has Heavy Metal bands that sound like nothing on earth...

Playing Heavy Metal is fun! And the fact that our rehearsal room is here, well, it might have been better, but it's ok too. I personally feel I owe a lot to my fortune. We hope to see better times, when it comes to our projects, but I also hate silly excuses. The second question, hm...too complicated, I have never heard these Indian bands...

You have chosen the hard task of releasing your music by yourself, why? Do you believe that there is still sense of making music, when internet kills all sales of music? It is a question we ask to all the bands, not signed to the music industry majors...

It's like a preference, you always prefer to undress by yourself, a helping hand always makes you ask questions and creates complications. You have to trust this helping hand and you never know what it might do. The second question surprised me; do we have to make money out of every sound we produce? There are far stronger reasons to play music. But it is good to make your living out of it...

It's hard to make concerts in Bulgaria, unless we talk about the paid party meetings during elections. You are a band that plays a lot of concerts, you even did a concert at a place where not many dare to go...any information is welcome...

It is not easy. We have chosen a pretty expensive hobby. We did a concert in a place, where nobody has ever dared to play – the prison in Kazichene. We had a great time in front of a very emotional audience; you can see shots of it in our new DVD. For sure, it is not something we can forget easily. It applies to our audience there too. We did something for these people that nobody has dared to do. It can't be repeated, such an outburst of emotions and energy..

Would you tell me something more about the latest album of the band? I was impressed by the great cover, also the music made me hear it several times. What are the reactions that far?

Just an ordinary studio project. It is either good or not. We like to do things in details and sometimes feel we are happy with the results. The reactions have been positive. Speaking about the album and its live presentations. Good intentions are always recognized...

What inspires you for the music and the lyrics?

They are inspired by the surrounding reality. The main author of the lyrics is Toni Karaatanasov, with a very few exceptions. He is one of the founding members and a good singer.

You are also a well known writer in Bulgaria. Is it equally hard to make a breakthrough as a band and as an author of fiction...?

There is no difference. It's full of "knowalls" and envy. The harder heads always win, also the stronger nerves...and you need a lot, a lot of luck.

What is the concert that has left the most precious memories ever? Is there a concert that you would like to forget? And what is your "dream concert"? Do you like playing live?

We don't have a favourite; we always make our live performances, so you can easily see we play to the maximum. As it is our last concert, we give everything!

Well, is there a way for people abroad to get your albums? Do you offer mailorder? And how do you spread your music? Do you support the idea of "free download"?

The only way to get them is by mailorder. We haven't reached yet any serious distributions around the world, so it is us that do it! The price of a CD is 11 euro, postage and packing included. For more information contact aon@mail.bg or www.renegade.bg. If you like us and want to help us...do contact us! We need serious people! About free download, my words will not change the mentality of the people that always look for the easiest ways. The main reason to dislike this is that it kills the magic of music. You do not appreciate what you get easily and for free...

What Are Your Future Plans, Maybe A New Album...?

We are working on a new album, which is a sort of a retrospective. We will show our gratitude to the old bands that once influenced and inspired us. But we will provide a new reading of the old classics. Expect our 2 new live DVDs and the new video.

You have donated a track for the compilation CD? Can you provide some more information?

The song is called Radio. It will be included in our new project with covers. Dancho Karadzov (SIGNAL) kindly gave his permission to us to experiment with it...

Any final comments....

Be healthy and stay true! Renegade wishes you a lot of luck!

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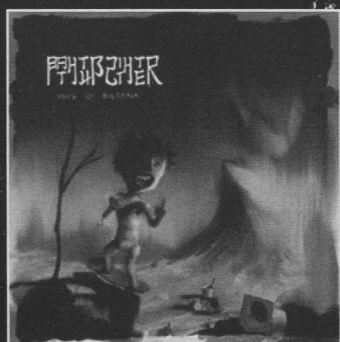
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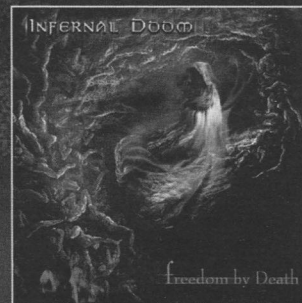
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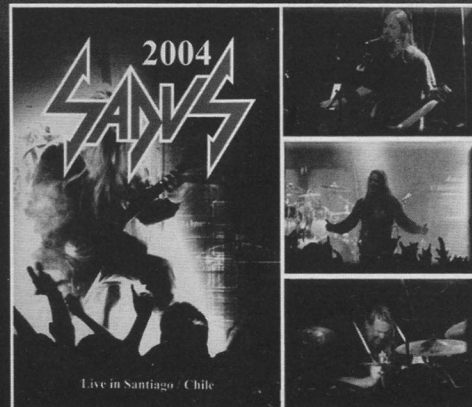
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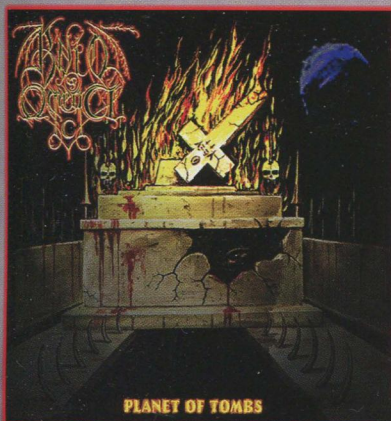
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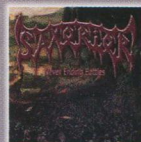
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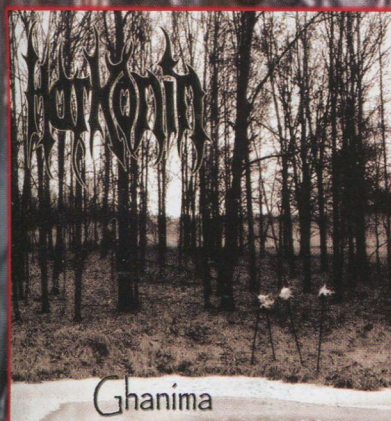
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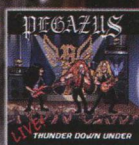
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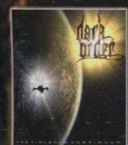
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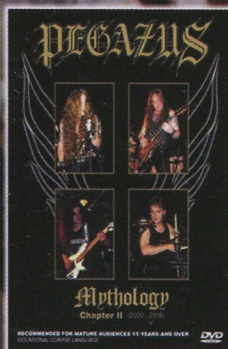
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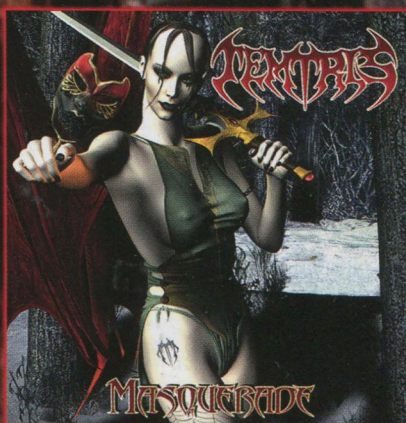
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